



Blue or Red by Belle Villar

Ghazal for Growing Pains

Mason Rowan

The Earth became shrewdly self-absorbed during the Cambrian Explosion,
spewed out new life to admire its own frame. Eyes emerge to view the self.

My eyes flutter against the sound of an alarm. An aching spine reverberates
into a creaking bedframe. The body demands 5 more minutes to assemble itself.

Ms. Hsiao tells me that my Mandarin needs work, “Discern the strokes of characters”.
My hands ache from rewriting the word 眼睛. Thank God the eye radical speaks for itself.

I’d much rather avoid mirrors than run the risk of lacerating my soles on the shards
of a fractured identity. Eyes do not look kindly upon meagreness within the self.

In the 485 million years since the end of the Cambrian period, the Earth has largely out-
grown
the awkwardness of Anomalocarid optics. Somewhere along the line, perhaps I’ll do so
myself.