

## **My Hollow**

**by Miriam Mangani**

I've been swallowed whole,  
trapped inside a hole,  
so long my eyes have adjusted to darkness —  
I see the world  
through grimy gray.

When the first wavy crack of light  
shines through,  
a sliver,  
a splinter —  
my prison revealed.

I try to reach  
that one weak crack of light  
before it fades,  
until the next one pierces through  
like a blade, stronger this time,  
bright like lightning,  
the dark recedes.  
I try to climb out,  
fall back to rock bottom.

I try to climb out again,  
one careful step at a time,  
confronting darkness  
with my head held high,  
feeling through it  
for hand and foot holds,  
to lift myself up  
into the warm light  
of my past life.