



San Gregorio State Beach / Stanford.edu / Pritchard

freedom

we can't know
what the quarks may have been thinking
when they chose to share energy
 create relationship / belonging
if they knew it could be the beginning of the Universe
what the first metabolizing polymers envisioned
inside the Garden Gate they opened

when the 18th century revolutions called for "Liberté..."
 overturning kingdoms
 conceiving of democracy
those who'd fought against the change
soon appropriated the word "freedom"
 claiming it meant their right to keep the privilege they'd enjoyed before
 using it to restore the power of a ruling class

we inherited a world
still locked into a destructive master narrative
a get-for-yourself culture / systems / institutions
 rife with conflict / corruption / suffering
 tears to fill an ocean / bloodshed rivers
 headed in an uncertain direction
approaching planetary criticality

what more wished for
than the freedom sea gulls conjure / flowers fare
freedom speaks to who we are
enables introspection
 allows us to look within ourselves
 nurture patterns we find there
 abandon pathways we no longer like

everywhere signs of what freedom can do
 can see things differently
 defy expectation / thwart prediction
precipitate an epiphany
freedom enables change
can liberate from fear / prejudice / dissolve hatred
go beyond separate self interest
freedom makes Love possible