



*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 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