

Drew Dellinger is a spoken word poet, teacher, activist and founder of Poets for Global Justice. Author of the collection of poems, *love letter to the milky way*, Dellinger has presented and performed at hundreds of conferences, colleges, protests, and events across the country, speaking on justice, cosmology, ecology, and democracy.



## Carolina Prophet

Drew Dellinger

we were dreamed  
in the cores  
of the stars.  
like the stars,  
we were meant to unfold

we were dreamed in the depths  
of the undulating ocean.  
like the waves,  
we were meant to unfold

like bursting supernovas, birthing elements,  
which crucibles give rise to creativity?

the world makes us  
its instrument.

Father Thomas,  
speaking for stars, in a voice  
old as wind: 'origin moments  
are supremely important'

what are the origins  
of a prophet?

found in syllables of Sanskrit,  
or Chinese characters?  
in a decade of midnight prayer?

in childhood epiphanies  
rising like heat?  
blue Carolina sky;  
dark pines;  
crickets;  
birds;  
sunlight  
on the lilies,  
in the meadow,  
across the creek.

born in Carolina  
on the eve of the Great War,  
Saturn conjoining Pluto in the sky.  
raised in a world of wires and wheels,  
watching dirt roads turn to pavement.

brooding intensity,  
measuring loss  
when others could see only progress.

white hair communing with angels of Earth

Father Thomas, reminding us  
we are constantly bathed in shimmering memories  
of originating radiance

we are constantly bathed in shimmering memories  
of originating radiance

the psychic stars:  
the conscious soil:

this thin film of atmosphere;

and only gravity  
holding the sea from the stars.

when a vision of the universe takes hold  
in your mind, your soul becomes vast as the cosmos.

when the mind is silent,  
everything is sacred.

like the spiral  
like the lotus  
like the waves  
like the trees  
like the stars,

we were meant to unfold.