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Calling Famine to End

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Calling Famine to End

From the wrong angle
the edge of a doumbek bites,
welting palm flesh
to foul weather green.

My fingers
stifle pulse lightening
to staccato cracks
and mimic thunder
despite split skin.

In storm I call famine to end,
rain stinging a rhythm with my hands.
For these sounds, a deer
ran with sweat at arrow point—
offered its throat.

Now, hands on drum.

—Katie Kroner '01