

We Should Keep You Around

by Dennis Payton Knight

You are at once the western sky and the eastern sky. You are the winter skies, the tropical skies and the skies dancing at our poles to the symphony of the northern and southern lights. We should keep you around.

We penetrate you with skyscrapers, skywriting, skyrockets, skyboxes, and skydivers. You are the air that lifts our kites, balloons, and airplanes, our butterflies, robins and eagles. We should keep you around.

You are blue, indigo, azure, red, green, orange, purple, pink, crimson and sometimes a beautiful sapphire. You may be sunlit, starlit, moonlit or even unlit. You are clear, cloudless, luminous, radiant, sunny and bright. You are distant with boundless infinity, but you touch us personally as you circulate in currents soft, capricious, swift and violent. You make us cold and you bring us warmth. We should keep you around.

You grow cloudy, dark, ominous and threatening. And then you explode, thunderous and flashing with lightening. You storm us with tornadoes, hurricanes, cyclones, blizzards and wildfire. You wield the power of life changing, life sustaining weather, yet sometimes you are a stingy sovereign, allowing dusty land to parch in the dry heat of your vastness.

But after the fire and the drought, the rain and the snow, you bring us trees, flowers, grasses, grains and new life. We should keep you around.