

b by: David Clink • for your 2017 Aurora Award consideration (Poem/Song category)

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Roc

For Sandra Kasturi

The Roc was dreamed into existence—
a foolish man could not imagine the world without it.

He dreamed of a white bird so large it blotted
out the moon, its eggs the size of sarsen stones.

Marco Polo said he saw one lifting an elephant, its talons
dripping grey and red, elephant skin falling like ribbons.

No one has seen a Roc since, these thunderclouds
of anxiety, these ashy birds of feather and scrape.

It spends its waking hours searching for another like itself,
distant memories of its parents pecking: *you are beautiful*.

Its eyes scan the unnamed wilderness,
its beak breaking peaks into crags,

snapping trees into brushwood to build a nest
in that rock-strewn hill of our imaginings.