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## True Naming

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# True Naming

Barbara Armbruster

My real name was whispered  
in my ear while I slept  
not meant to be spoken in daylight.

Yesterday my name was Robert's child  
baptized with water  
and a hope that died.

Today my name is She  
She who watches  
She who sits in silence.

Tomorrow my name will be  
540-32-4625  
unless someone named grandchild  
searches letters and diaries  
and a dumpster full of books.

Secretly I know my name:  
Beautiful Sad Child  
Beauty was my birthright  
Sadness I worked hard to achieve.

Once my name was  
Glacier Blue  
    Star on Fire  
        Woman Eye to Eye with a Tiger