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The Child of Cotonou

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In the spaces between half sentences,
a mother can fill in the meaning.

I sip the last of my tea.
Simultaneously, she reaches for the pot.
A mother knows, in the unspoken void,
her child's needs.
She has heard for years
infant, youth, teen tears
and knows the music by heart.

We're both quiet now.
She waits while my heart mends in the stillness.
My breathing paces with hers,
recalling a long-ago symbiosis.
We two, breathing in the silence...
working out the rough places in wood.

The Child of Cotonou

Mathias Foley

