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## Key West Early Morning Rain

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## Key West Early Morning Rain

*Jeanne Chase*

Yesterday's ocean  
brilliant as turquoise  
lined with coral ribbons  
lies fieldstone grey  
in early mist.

Last night's rumble  
of low steel drums,  
laughing voices  
in exotic tongues,  
hover dreamlike  
over sleeping streets  
as rain clouds ripen.

First drops pounce  
on pastel porches  
of gingerbread mansions.  
Rain streaks down  
the banyan tree's  
many-stalked trunk,  
organized as asparagus.

Outside my window  
an old man smiles at the sky,  
his face dark and lined  
as of one who has slept  
too often in the sun.

His tattered pants rolled  
high above bare feet,  
he sways, his waving arms  
embracing cleansing rain  
on forehead, cheeks,  
his dancing feet.

Beneath him  
sidewalk cracks  
like rivulets to river  
rush rain to curb to  
shiny pool  
as first light breaks.