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The Dam Fixer

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Dandelion Droplets On a Quiet Morning,
Allison Klein

The Dam Fixer
Ben Ryles

I work on a dam
And I'm the fixer
That's what I've been told to be
For this wall that holds
A strange elixir
A vast and boundless sea

Why I do it
I'm unaware
It's just the orders I've been given
I mend the holes
On the side that's bare
But I'm just about to give in

I'm reduced to
Wood and tape
And cracks keep showing face
The cement ran out
Years ago
And a flood will soon take place

I'm always on
A high alert
Because the ground tends to rumble
And each time it does
Though shaken little
The wall will faster crumble

If the wall
Were to come down
And the substance came pouring out
We'd all be dead
And new people'd rebuild
With more resolution and less doubt

We want that too
But do we?
We don't know what we're containing
It could be good
It could be bad
It could not be worth maintaining

It keeps filling
Higher up
On the other side of the wall
The higher it goes
The higher we work
By now we're twice as tall

I fill the holes
I mend the cracks
But with every memory relapse
The ground will shake
A little more
And it gets closer to collapse

They call me a gatekeeper
I do my best
To keep it closed
I do my best
But it's getting tougher
And more cracks are being exposed

It was constructed
Some time ago
And frankly we don't know why
All the reason
We've ever been told
Is that it's not okay to cry