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Morning Solitude

Devona Barnes
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Call of the Sea

ABDUL MALIK MANDANI

At a boisterous beach
amid a milling crowd
I am lost
trying to gather my thoughts
on the shore of the sea
grain by grain
in the glow of the setting sun.

Struggling against the rising tide
stirred by a howling wind
I try furtively to somehow garner
the dissipating sunbeams.

I get up
as the relentless waves
swash and ripple around my feet
insistent upon reining me in
with the pull of the rip current.

I turn around
in the gathering darkness
to walk away from this restive sea.

Led by my shadow,
and my footprints following me,
I get lost on my way home.

