

# Oh Canada

[Marc Leblanc, in Memory]



I love to sail forbidden seas, and land on barbarous coasts.  
—Herman Melville: *Moby-Dick*

## I got the call

and it was sad news  
from Canada. I drove  
to the lake and walked  
into the wood and found  
a stone shaped like the head  
of a shark. The daffodils  
have circled the pine with  
yellow blooms. The snow  
has gone to melt weeks ago  
and it is two weeks from Spring.



## The river outside my cottage in Canada

flows out of the cold north  
to the ocean waters  
as salty as our tears. The cry  
of the loon is rare there.  
Wood ducks nest in the trees  
across the channel. Sometimes  
the sight of eagles. Above  
the rapids the flight of osprey.

## We are all almost water.

It freezes and we break.  
The snow still falls in the mountains  
of Japan. We are so brittle.



## For all for everyone who knew him

for a friend and brother and son  
we long for time before this time.  
It was then and I said  
even before I had met him  
to Joseph and to Jen  
I want to adopt him.



Oh, the gentle and the fierce waves of kindness he left behind.