

The Wild Swimmer's Heartsong

By Ro Dominy

When the sun turns the water
An inviting shade
How to dull that infernal ache
As the signs all say
"No swimming in the lake"

When the skin on my flesh
Is caressed by the sea
Do I belong to it?
Or it to me?

When, as a fall, it crashes and thunders
Why don't we any of us wonder
At the folly of thinking
We can own what we're drinking?

Where the drops have converged
For eons before
Any waves that lapped
From your bow to its shore
We sail, we float
We foolishly gloat
At a dominion existing
But just in the mind
And then as it rises
We suddenly find
How silly it is
To think we can claim
What's here before us
And after remains

It takes a social contract
And an Act of Man
To grant us
In our imaginations
Ownership of land

By the hand of which divine son or daughter
Could we be possibly granted ownership of water?