

By the Minerals:

I sit deep in the ground on a normal day
Beneath the solid Earth I form and grow
My crystalline structure expands as I wait with the bedrock
I question my purpose as I sit
Years and years and no access to sunlight
Do I want to be exposed
Have all of my pieces distributed
Will I then see the world
Will the world use me
I understand I have value to them
Should I with this value be misused
Creating hurt in the home from which I grew
That I may no longer expand to the corners of the Earth
Would I feel a different sort of entrapment
Hidden in the materials that cause harm
Is it better to just sit
And wait in the Earth
For disturbed and used, I am capable of destruction

Deeper Explanation:

Minerals sit in the ground for many years before being exposed to the sunlight, or before they are extracted for anthropocentric uses. As we understand, these minerals can help people via creating infrastructure, technologies, etc. but they can also be used to harm people through pollution, cancer for employees, etc. This poem gives understanding from the minerals perspective, that sometimes it would be better to leave them alone in the ground than to dig them up if it means harming people and the Earth.

By the Energy:

I am complex
Hard to understand for the untrained mind
I come in many forms
Many times I require the burning and destruction of others
I am always needed and sometimes affordable
Sometimes affordable for some
I am easily accessed in few areas
Places of geologic wonder that make me highly available
Consumed in large quantities at a low cost
I am valued
They fight countless wars over me as if I am helpless in a tower
I could be free
In a different world I am available and accessible to all
In a different world wars don't start for me
And the absence of me doesn't end them
But this world is not as forgiving
I will be kept away for the rich
Or the ones lucky enough to access me easily
But it's not so easy to understand
My life and where I will be shipped to
Is confusing and complicated

Deeper Explanation:

For this poem I thought the idea that energy is extremely cheap in Iceland was very interesting. I took that as inspiration for a few of the lines where I talk about "easy access" to energy in some places or for some people. Energy runs the world and has been the cause of different wars over time and when people run out of access to energy it causes major problems for that area. The idea of energy in general is complicated to understand, and the shipping, trading, and buying of energy is as well and this concept is mentioned at the beginning and end of the poem. Like the others, it is written from the perspective of general energy.

Vestal Virgins Haiku Set

Without us it's dark
Keep the unending flame bright
Never let it cease

Intrigued, time for sport
To be seen by the masses
Unlike near the fire

Young and naive soul
Hiding in the lights absence
Trapped by the chambers

Deeper Explanation:

I normally don't follow regular poetry rules, but decided to write a set of Haiku's for this piece. A Haiku is 5 syllables long, followed by a line of 7 syllables, and again to 5 syllables. I thought that this could be a cool way to express the idea of the Vestal Virgins from ancient Rome. The poem is short and sweet and I thought that this was an ode to the view of these women. Their main purpose was to keep the fire and this is shown throughout the poem. Most of the time they were kept away to do this, and this is explained in the lines about being away from the light. There is an interesting dichotomy between their purpose of bringing light but also being kept away most of the time was something I tried to zone in on. I also tried to explain that they were able to be viewed more than "regualr" women during sporting events at the Colosseum in the second stanza.

By the Water:

Always on the move, I flow
 Shifting, changing from one form to another
 Always around but hiding in different forms
 I am invisible sometimes
 Floating through the air
 Gathering up high to form the fluffiest of clouds
 Other times I am frozen solid
 Every part of my being is rigid and unmoving in space
 Below 32 degrees I am catatonic
 In my happy medium I am free
 Flowing in the rivers or the streams
 Down mountains I roll and explore
 Sinking deep into the Earth I heal the biotic world
 I am the source of all things good
 Brought by comets long ago I reside within the atmosphere
 I am a necessary resource to continue the circle of all things living
 However, I am not all good
 Not inherently evil I still bring devastation
 Not enough of my presences brings famine and drought
 Hurting millions every year
 Too much of me and I wash away the others
 The rich soils, the life I have worked to create
 I can never be perfect
 But all of me is distributed around the world
 Uneven and unfair
 And in its likeness
 My destruction is unevenly gifted to all

Deeper Explanation:

Water is an extremely important and necessary resource for anything on Earth to thrive. It is always on the move, cycling through different places and forms, and helps to create life as we know it. This water however also has a dark side when it comes in extreme amounts. Too much of it causes flooding and destruction, and too little creates periods of drought that also devastate wide areas. All water is distributed unevenly across the world, and it depends on location to

which places see the “best” of water and which see the “worst” side it has to offer. This poem is written from the water's perspective like Energy and Minerals ones.