



Sister Crab (for Lynn)

by Rosanne Shapiro

*"When you have come to the edge of all the light you know
and are about to step out into the darkness of the unknown ,
Faith is knowing that one of two things will happen:
There will be something solid to stand on . . .
.. or you will be taught to fly."*

– Anonymous

I.

Such sensitive creatures,
you and I, skittering sideways
or nipping with our claws
and then skittering away.

We learned these maneuvers early on –
nature's way to keep us safe –
never knowing if we face the enemy
or another scared creature.

We tell ourselves stories about a world
viewed through tiny crab eyes,
felt with antennae alert to potential dangers.
We believe our tender souls need protection.

II.

One day a wise crab asks:
"Am I truly alive or just a shadow?
Am I scared safe?"

She moves forward slowly,
to where the earth drops off,
where she has to go, knowing only this:

To not go forward would be to go back
to a dark, airless cave
that no longer gives comfort.

So she sidesteps to the edge,
balances on the tip of her claw

and

lets

GO.