

What Outlasts

angry men who sneer
at accountability
drop bombs on
children

they don't care to know
about olive trees
or the Cypress of Abarkuh
they don't care

to wonder how 4,000
year-old trees
outlast the hate of
small minds

how the heartwood
groans but still
records
the years

and there have been
good ones, too
when rain caught the sound
of schoolyard laughter

and soaked into roots
years when new rings
etched stories
of love

there are more of those,
by the way
more stories of
love

life still has
so much for us
hold on, love has
outlasted anger

before, even now
when love is wailing
it does not forget
it does not forget

how to grow stronger

-Katie Spring