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## Landscape

Mary Oliver

Isn't it plain the sheets of moss, except that  
they have no tongues, could lecture  
all day if they wanted about

spiritual patience? Isn't it clear  
the black oaks along the path are standing  
as though they were the most fragile of flowers?

Every morning I walk like this around  
the pond, thinking: if the doors of my heart  
ever close, I am as good as dead.

Every morning, so far, I'm alive. And now  
the crows break off from the rest of the darkness  
and burst up into the sky—as though

all night they had thought of what they would like  
their lives to be, and imagined  
their strong, thick wings.

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