**Annunciation**

This was the minute no one speaks of,

when she could still refuse.

A breath unbreathed,

Spirit,

suspended,

waiting.

She did not cry, “I cannot, I am not worthy,”

nor, “I have not the strength.”

She did not submit with gritted teeth,

raging,

coerced.

Bravest of all humans,

consent illumined her.

And courage opened her

utterly.

(Denise Levertow)