

before

...a full day before
the loud rumble everyone else heard
resonating from kilometers in the distance
beneath ocean's floor
there then earth plates shifting
and here dinner plates rattling
with teacups in cupboards
artwork, books, and hung pictures falling
to a shaking floor

...and still a half-day before
the tsunami waves hit
leveling villages
deep-sea burying and washing away
people, animals, trees, and farms
there you sat in silence
on that same beach
and watched a static
glass ocean's surface

and there right before you
as if from nothing
as if hesitating
a slightest
 single ripple
 formed

Bruce Kauffman