## I Watch The Lanterns Fade

I meet the cherry blossom tree by the rising sun Buds twinkle to cardinals' sweetest choir Blooming rainbows of the brightest pink The air tastes like the freshest fruit The cherry blossom tree stands

I wait at distance Planets fly through time Peril as color bleeds from the days Threatening smell of rotten sulfur The cherry blossom tree still stands

I wait in silence
Magma cremates thirsty roses
Molten clouds choke birdsongs and
Throat is eaten out by ashes
The cherry blossom tree still stands

I wait in seizure Crumble of the mountains from fearful tectonics Crush of water erodes wishful willows and The air shivers into ice The cherry blossom tree still stands

I wait for the petals' sweetest embrace over me Black snap and the sun is gone Bitter winds that taste like charred dirt Thankless bullet rain numbs the skin The cherry blossom tree still stands

## I wait

The cherry blossom tree is struck by lightning Its petals flutter like lanterns into the night I watch each light drift out, until I'm alone

in the dark.