

# Sixty Square

An Elemental Suite



## Sixty Square: an Elemental Suite

These poems appear in the order they were composed. The theme for the suite comes from the ancient idea of four elements; earth (E), water (W), air (A), and fire (F). The schematic for the entire suite was devised by placing combinations of two, three and all four of the elements in every possible sequence, yielding a total of sixty possibilities for stanza order. The group of two-part combinations are two stanzas two lines long, three-part combinations are three stanzas of three lines, the four-part four stanzas of four, thus the poems are square.

1. E W	13. E W A	25. A E W	37. E W A F	49. A E W F
2. E A	14. E W F	26. A E F	38. E W F A	50. A E F W
3. E F	15. E A W	27. A W E	39. E A W F	51. A W E F
4. W E	16. E A F	28. A W F	40. E A F W	52. A W F E
5. W A	17. E F W	29. A F E	41. E F W A	53. A F E W
6. W F	18. E F A	30. A F W	42. E F A W	54. A F W E
7. A E	19. W E A	31. F E W	43. W E A F	55. F E W A
8. A W	20. W E F	32. F E A	44. W E F A	56. F E A W
9. A F	21. W A E	33. F W E	45. W A E F	57. F W E A
10. F E	22. W A F	34. F W A	46. W A F E	58. F W A E
11. F W	23. W F E	35. F A E	47. W F E A	59. F A E W
12. F A	24. W F A	36. F A W	48. W F A E	60. F A W E



One

Unthrown stone,  
Pre-causal primary,

Flow unflown,  
Second, lighter stream.

Two

Earth's shelf, itself,  
Standing, stood,

High and just above,  
Wind meets this stance in dust.

Three

Bone, knotted, rigid,  
Stiffness smooth,

Supporting place for fire's face,  
A one and changing truth.

Four

Of fish's liquid air,  
Of fish's liquid land,

Held inside collecting cups,  
Formed of rock and sand.

Five

The watery kin of holding movers,  
Has reach toward deep community,

Always giving, half-sisters of air,  
Fills the pace of nothing's everywhere.

Six

Unlaked stream, no quiet pool,  
My blood revolves within,

Steady fire, blending flame,  
My thought continuous turns resolve.

Seven

Sky, blue carrier of day,  
Night field, full outlining stars,

Footing firm, though twirling plate,  
Earth, down of downward's go.

Eight

Cloud-holder,  
Moving place to place as wind's whistling rush,

Rain-seat, where sky wash dropping  
Sinks to liquid posture

Nine

Air, thin ladder no flesh can climb,  
Bears upward rising thought,

Sun, such light too fills an eye,  
Full view only gives in dream.

Ten

Lighting wood with fire's heat,  
Inverse to ash and smoke,

Unseen anchor halves every tree,  
Earth more earth is under.

Eleven

Fiery height, it's own quick bridge,  
A changing place and way,

Cool quarter, tremendous pool,  
Expanse, wet, soothe hot rising day

Twelve

One near star and stars afar,  
Hold space between the light they are,

A cushion and surrounding thing,  
Transparent air, complete full ring.

### Thirteen

Mountaintops, desert, field and plain,  
Hillside, forest, valley and beach,  
Dirt, stone, dust and sand.

Oceans, lakes, rivers and brooks,  
Seas, marshes, showers and floods,  
Cloud, mist, deep fog and drops.

Space, universe, atmosphere,  
Sky of day and sky of night,  
Air, airstreams, breeze and gust.

### Fourteen

Damp, warm fuel, shifting slow,  
Growth-rooted nurturing place,  
Spun planet, huge with movement.

Grand rinse, with salt of sweat and sea,  
Swimming acres, waves, rising ton,  
Cloud and rain, floating, falling wash.

As earth holds day, moon holds phase,  
Thou art that hold, magnetic light,  
Shadow-giver, fulgent blazing sphere.

### Fifteen

I, with stance firm footed,  
Exhale for inhale, inhale for ex,  
In streams from feet to lungs my blood.

Cuddled, I move within gravity's embrace,  
Singing sky's music, fluting wind,  
While mists float with night's gentle rain.

Soft foundation, thick solid sleep,  
Stars, moon nearing, night closing,  
Bedded course, slow dreaming river.



## Sixteen

At bottom, giving start a beginning does,  
Straight into air, passage sublime,  
Quick, without friction, light's ray beams.

Stamping runner, hard breathing,  
Taking wings, becoming breath,  
Sheds form, gives bright display.

Sure logic, numbered steady count,  
Creation, intuition soaring leap,  
Though meets soul, stillness flares, unfolding.

## Seventeen

Contact of resistance, weight,  
Wide linkless chain, all-binding mass,  
Thick gateless cell.

Uneven turn, rough imbalance,  
Realization motioning change,  
Active distillation all reblending.

Cool settlement, solution,  
Changeful stuff of one compose,  
Essence uplifting, brought to water.

## Eighteen

Old patience, walking among trees,  
Slow even pace, hill to hill,  
Measures by leisure moment's passage.

Older youth, earlier, faster flight,  
Open dash from star to star,  
First way, leaving place for all else.

Huge, operative procession,  
Allowing gift, polar space exchange,  
In one time, always other to other.

Nineteen

Midland sounds to every shore,  
Life roller of salt and age,  
Push on, unbending tidal turn.

Shore, changing, shifting rim,  
Wet edge of wrinkling earth,  
Stair-step terrace from deep to day.

Sky, protracted surface touching,  
Immense viewer of contoured face,  
Circulate rhythms of wind and calm.

Twenty

Down streams into reservoir,  
On steep bank and valley wall,  
Alternate shine, sun and moon.

Reeded pond and boated lake,  
Grassy spread from mountain field,  
Arise and fall swift day and night.

Currents bear reflective seas,  
Whole continents of skyward growth.  
Constant light, spheric cycle.

Twenty-one

Water field, global plunge,  
Rolling gulf and roiling mid-sea storms,  
Flowing melt of frozen polar monument,

Air, tight surrounder of still and go,  
Dense as breath, ethereal graduation,  
Empty up to open atmosphere, sky,

Earth, cool crust from molten center,  
Firm locality, topographic expression,  
Broad element, curved foundation.

Twenty-two

Fresh spirit, gentle liquidity,  
Moist transport of life,  
Lush nutrient, joyous flow,

Unseen music, times and tones,  
By ear entering center's heart,  
Unstill, inner listening rings,

Cause, changing motive,  
Effecting method's new muse,  
Spark, invention, actual way.

Twenty-three

Floating, asleep on a calm sea,  
Quietly unnoticed moonlit waves,  
Curled into a soft circulating pool,

Dreaming, one whose thought must now  
Fuel deep rest with day's experience,  
Awaiting hungrily awakening's return,

Rest, peaceful closing envelope,  
Unmoving eyes inward turned,  
Limbs enacting stillness, quite, fixed.

Twenty-four

Green that is transparent,  
Green that is often blue,  
Effervescent crests coloring the tide,

Yellow, part of orange,  
Equal part of orange, red,  
Light, burning wing, distinct,

Blue with night blackened,  
Blue becoming yellow day,  
Wide sky time's tale tints.

Twenty-five

Over a cliff's dirt-soft edge,  
Looking through the empty hand of falling,  
I began a fall,

Unloosening four young trees too easily uprooted,  
Reaching the next, higher larger one falling away,  
I held to a deep-barked tree, huge with age,

It fell slowly from the loose cliff while I,  
Climbing to the place above, saw it,  
To the bottom, fall and split.

Twenty-six

Seamless compartment for breath,  
Skinless varia, vehicle to diversity,  
An open way as wide as yes,

Standard, blunt industrious plane,  
Flat directions of boundary, horizon,  
The floor to which things press in place.

Collecting on surface though space,  
Pouring sheets of illuminate luxury,  
Warm radiant excess with nightly remove.

Twenty-seven

As the room filled with people  
During a dream I wished to change,  
I prayed, just this once, to be invisible,

Already I had crossed dark waters,  
Between opposing chain-link fences swinging,  
Leaving unreflective water undisturbed,

Already steep hillside I climbed,  
Surmounting fence and foliage with upward toil,  
To the room above, seeking rest and solitude.

Twenty eight

Seeming most clear aspect,  
Invisible to penetrating sight,  
Air, thin magnifier of clarity,

Eye, fluid invert, sphere distort,  
Wet unsteady process claiming sense,  
Humid inroad of look and see,

Opposite to darkness posed,  
Silent, darting penetrant, light,  
Sure path laying, waking sight known.

Twenty-nine

Move, winds grown through long sky,  
Shifting shafts of passage, flight,  
Herald tones to moment's turn,

Start, spark spontane, combustion,  
Vital quick-flash circuit, change,  
Bright piercing one point's instance,

Wait, ample corpulent store, enormous,  
Immense thick-packed patience, potential,  
Ore-veined rest hold, yet undone.

Thirty

That open vessel of occurrence,  
Manifold intersection of possibilities,  
Singular chance, signify infinity once,

That having gained becoming,  
Rise, eventual being's moment,  
Circumstantial element of action,

That after-flowing contrivance,  
Passing director, specific influence,  
Motive vehicle, on coursing way.

Thirty-one

Not one exists but all at once,  
One thing happens all the time,  
Cycle or segment of some larger line?

Basic measure or massive claim,  
Dense portion of part coherent,  
Solid most, but filled with space.

Accepting manifestations trine,  
Be frozen, cool lake or steam,  
Attend each manner by living way.

Thirty-two

Light-bearing voices, chorus full,  
O sung from circle-formed lips,  
Harmonies, shining, brilliant blent,

Earthen rumble, deep perpetual tone,  
Chamber's profound reverberation,  
Grave resonance, slow and large,

Interwoven symphonic breeze,  
Fabric of textured passage,  
Pitched airy carpet, sweet piped.

Thirty-three

Eternal flash, all at once,  
Impossible, unthinkable reconcile,  
Method of attempt, proceed, become,

Sustain joyous circulation of  
Warm-pulsed rhythmic blood,  
Day's full measure pump, o heart,

Deep grassy cup pooling spring,  
Wide stage and open temple plain,  
Being vast purpose active use.

Thirty-four

Steep moment's stage to next,  
Consecutive remixture together sliding,  
Paths in-weaving ends follow, accounted,

Long water's streaming question  
Search that speaks of passage asked,  
Pouring be, no act of rest,

Round sky, mild bell, thin ring,  
Steady lift outward tending,  
Cushioned float, projecting sphere.

Thirty-five

Steep near-finisher, upward where next tend?  
What flame-transformed parcel departs mute ash?  
Some unguessed vision ends journeyed light?

Airsome level where flight finds rise,  
Collect but windy substances, sky dish,  
Breathing streams riddle cloud-plowed plain,

Bridge embarked, void-crossing cyclic vessel,  
Step initial that none precedes?  
Or final rest deep-enduring mass?

Thirty-six

The way three sides become four,  
Of some and none more proceeds,  
Addition, increase, glad geometry,

Emotive climate must word express,  
No substance but actions meaning held,  
Housing thought's volley and loves respire,

Tide, wet living border, birth,  
Pinnacle attain crested surge,  
Descent, release awaiting still depth.

Thirty-seven

Sight to substance is sight of,  
The seen something in the view,  
Edged form and surfaced side,  
All that seeing can't see through.

Liquid, wet imperfect lens,  
Though glass relation grinds clear,  
Reflective modification distorts sense,  
Seen through, alters still seer's sight.

Unseen part of every vision,  
Space nearest and entity distant most,  
Allowing look's traverse unresisting,  
The necessary noplacement between.

Bright center swiftest eye bears not,  
Radiance stirring a scene to sight,  
Day-brought morning to evening's dim,  
Each hue but part the color of light.

Thirty-eight

Journey's incept limb forth stretches,  
Step that draws path starting from,  
Way various with widening roads and  
Scapes but for sole passage without trail.

Young stream light raft floating brings,  
Meets river linking lake to lake,  
Stern hull bears delta's spill to tide,  
Curved ocean's wide-waved surface sail.

Quick rise by unexpected flaming burst,  
Neutral calm become sped ascent,  
Life's matter but fuel propelling aloft,  
In-vent moment claims height unreached.

Spent system's reaction disperses ash,  
Climbing fires finish withdraw, disappear,  
Exhausted suspends high vast display,  
Turn gently, descend an endless fall.



Thirty-nine

Time's a table which multiplies,  
From this, solid things moment gain,  
To duration's span once end and begun,  
And the nothing before and the absence of gone.

Sky that cups all climate's change,  
Bears light and loss each day,  
Screen passing stars, show lunar phase,  
Time's measure mesh with cyclic ways.

A single liquid molecule,  
Rest no segment but rise and flow,  
Partner to bulging mainstream merge,  
Clock by virtual liquid urge.

Beaming light through space outward spread,  
Herald by speed time's edge proclaim,  
Bringing present places yet unreached,  
Making full return, then timed repeat?

Forty

Once begun, no other beginning has,  
Though resume, following pause, names again;  
An end not final while future restart may,  
As course seeming new links only ways before.

Love eases rising, flight become,  
Bond winged by strength, warm embrace,  
Float cloudless sky by sun and star,  
Sailing sure craft of ecstasy weaved.

Unseen storming fierce recipe promotes,  
Foul yeasts burst forth turbulent brew,  
Piped discordant passion abrupt change fuels,  
Joy-ship's calm smooth away, bursting fire.

More casual temper water takes,  
Be steam, freeze easy or fountain flow,  
Acceptive constance by virtue held,  
Transforms, becomes circumstance at rest.

Forty-one

Threefold leap through interstice,  
Woven passage by sublime chemistry,  
From wintered, sleeping, barren ground,  
Full holding up toward eminent radiance.

What changes of substance conducts yet spark,  
Principle allowing one way segmented paths,  
Concentrate, disperate, same motion draw,  
Each entity gains transmitting action within.

Life swim with blood's circule invest,  
System bring humours course, expire,  
Give moist season both heart and brain,  
Of felt passion and known love, beget.

Unshelled spirit's soft limbs of wind,  
Dance, race of air, distracting no eye,  
Flight employ sky's seamless height,  
By hall of space hollow emptiness unite.

Forty-two

Does a whale beget only whales  
By virtue of it's name,  
Might then honor and merit find  
Place by only gift and receipt?

How some in certain bunches  
Gains size and number, qualities  
Of many discerned by parts  
Too poor to illustrate one all?

Life and sense and motion by  
Action does thought combine,  
Mysterious industry, consideration,  
Yielding identity, by understanding, understand.

That method, knowing yet unknown,  
Attributes unity, desiring to belong  
To a universal mechanism's unseen end,  
An ongoing origin informing yet.

### Forty-three

Desert flower moisture gets enough,  
Seaweed drinks but need stops,  
Of life each part finds liquidity,  
Accepts a sum fluid exchange provides.

A tree grows forth from solid rock,  
Across soil green places extend,  
Booted half, firm held by clasping earth,  
Thick floor and shelf extent, ground.

One leaf displaces air enough to grow,  
Man's height bids roof of sky to raise,  
Curved winds twirl, distribute seed,  
Be breath that of sky all may share.

Still ongoing, universal riddle outplay,  
Blent system's kind interaction proceed,  
Until weekdays in naming change,  
And ancient passes now's future time.

### Forty-four

Would all rushing waters fully hush,  
Alike evaporate puddle, lake and sea;  
Geysers, springs and deepest wells be dry,  
River bed, lake and ocean floor meet sky.

May solids in disintegration disappear,  
Whole mountain ranges leaving less than dust,  
No shoulder anchors outstretched palm of earth,  
In place of substance, sky, unquestioning reigns.

Cease sun, star, moonlit path,  
Last fuel consumed, life's fire burns not,  
No thought, no dream, stilled at time's end,  
Cool, darkened sky expands and waits.

To what might space relinquish,  
Next, unknown manner sky replace?  
With all become nothing, this nothing gone,  
How should empty void unfilling be?

Forty-five

Might water conduct to air become,  
Tide to wind, breeze each wave,  
Fish's halls now sea sailed by birds,  
Former liquid expanse being space.

With light now sky fills,  
Unclouded heights bright change takes,  
Air invisible chambers brilliance,  
Old breath, wide heavens, become a shine.

Slow earth, huge lake's conversion,  
Mountain to surging waterfall,  
Continental shelf to currents shift,  
Land once still. Bars swimmer's plunge.

What ascension may sun's ray make,  
How transform into substance subtler?  
Where leap new station to assume,  
That to be, fulgent lustre must shed?

Forty-six

Fluvium, flow following aqueduct,  
Submit to tide, be falling rain,  
Hold warmth that bathing pleasant be,  
Taking flavor, fill cup with tinted drink.

Upbear brittle wings plane giving flight,  
Recede allowing space for monument's stance,  
Carry heat dividing evening's chill,  
Be breath that pulse may meet fresh air.

Provide day that ways sight discern,  
Offer flame by kindling touched to spark,  
Be deep thought, known and dreamt,  
Be loving cause for spirit's soar.

As floor to stepped endeavor undertook,  
Combinant substance form tooled anew,  
By nature fruit, land plowed grain yield,  
Home living be, death's sleep cradle.

Forty-seven

To moon's suggestion water waves,  
River's motion upspeeds at waterfall,  
Surpasses cold to glacier's slow scour,  
Beckons heat to boil, steaming rush.

Breeze slight air does circulate,  
As breath and piped instrument,  
While winds does climates shift,  
Cyclone turns whole atmosphere.

How earth's surface inclines gradually,  
Curve so subtle seeming flat,  
Quick shift occasions earthquake's tilt,  
Through space does speeding planet spin.

Fuel-aided fire fast can burn,  
Through nerve swift runs electricity,  
No substance outraces light physical,  
Though thought and spirit unlimit dreams.

Forty-eight

This that sometimes lake unfills,  
Though may shine when shining's due,  
Or breeze at moments frequently,  
Not less often hillside growing green.

As aspect moisture one of is,  
Light a twine in corded knot,  
Space and nothing something's part,  
With matter's shifting semblant face.

Streaming blood some liquid's way,  
By thought does insight climb,  
Air with presence breath inspires,  
Fleshed bone extends able limb.

Must swim along one side the square,  
One segment's branch mind's activity,  
In flight another's passage be,  
All steps traverse same single path.

Forty-nine

By speech might your heart be won,  
Soft words upon a gentle tongue,  
Song to phrase accompany,  
Winds with resonance winging full.

With rings, golden necklace, gifts,  
A silken shift your breast to drape,  
Bear single tender bloom just picked,  
Reach around you arm's embrace.

In praise raising a cup to thee,  
A toast, with bottle's pour, of us,  
Or abstain to only water sworn,  
My tear-wet lips await your kiss.

Shone light, eyes to eyes, between,  
Rouse lusty, passioned blood afire,  
One touch transforms to spirit's thrill,  
To only, only you, pure love.

Fifty

Might air the first of all begun,  
That even now so without end,  
Space, vast gives description poor,  
True root of miracle infinity.

May earth, first step, origin be,  
All substantial matter then compressed,  
Season's train eternal alternate,  
Universal mother all born of.

What could precede initial spark,  
Outbreak act, flame's cause?  
Extensive light pre-sequenceless,  
Perpetual impend, eldest primal sun.

Did fountain forth great waters,  
By division vital geyser increase?  
All being arise with living spray,  
Spring ever, resurge, produce anew.

Fifty-one

On a day the air I'll breathe,  
Listening to piping wingers,  
Perhaps hum a tune myself,  
For winds away to carry.

Of cool water whole mouth I'll take,  
Bending give my face a splash,  
Stand in brooklet's sparkle-flow,  
That sounding over stones does play.

Chew of cheese and bread a piece,  
Then from my table rise,  
Across full fields walk striding make,  
To hillside fresh for climb.

When all's been done in spending day,  
Home I go in evening light,  
Beside in bed my love to lay,  
Close with her dream the night.

Fifty-two

With direction though arching sky,  
Forward might rising be,  
Where next ahead is steady up,  
Only more distance to view.

Drift waters of oceanic move,  
Swim not, nature draws descent,  
Unfloating, sink, finding floor,  
Deep basin making bottom stop.

Cycle of time by day repeats,  
While never same day twice,  
Though onward's future lays unspelt,  
Experience hopes past resembles.

On earth is but the north,  
On earth is but the south,  
By earth to go an east and west,  
Intervening ocean, sky, and time?

Fifty-three

With breath to speak, to sigh, so sing,  
While winds atturn the sky,  
Hand gathers fan, wings winds apply,  
I a feeling voice, wait and hear.

Fabric dreams, inwrapping thought,  
As sun stirs night to day,  
Eye and leaf returned light drink,  
I a spirit course, wait and watch.

Thumb and finger touch in hand,  
Earth's duration layers soil,  
Hoof and foot bear natural tread,  
I a sense, affirm, wait and hold.

With blood, of humour's shifts I beat,  
Waves, draw shoreline's edge, resweeps,  
Churns an arm, a fin streamlines,  
I a passion swell, wait and feel.

Fifty-four

Same is same as air's the air,  
Transports shafting light,  
Vapors, fog in seal of mist,  
Carries dusty molecules.

Heaving energetic brilliant breath,  
Same is same, the light's the light,  
Round, streaming fount pours day,  
Some centered star's manufact.

Natural rises bubbled sphere,  
Wet surface reflective shine holds,  
Same is same, the water is,  
Sea buoyed islands of stony ice.

Space in structure's interstice,  
Flame solid fuel transforms aglow,  
Planet full flow and tide becomes,  
Same is same, the earth.



Fifty-five

Unremembered dream's event,  
Interrupted, abandoned thought,  
Incomplete, discarded themes,  
Moment's gesture inacted, lost.

Unjourneyed roads indelinate,  
Invitation's unreply,  
Certain, open course obstruct,  
Without steps, excursion none.

Unseen oceans never crossed,  
To river's source not navigate,  
Unpaddled edge of unknown lake.  
Fares not an unbuilt vessel.

Unblown winds won't climates change,  
Not future's sky to shift,  
Breath in-held no word outfills,  
Hesitation no flight's cause.

Fifty-six

What way traversing infinitude?  
Paths of light starry fields cross?  
At rates does vary time's exchange?  
Perhaps in dream some method lives.

Since steps accumulation made,  
Trails print-worn journeys guide,  
Returns did two-way roads unfold,  
March ten thousand miles mapped.

Hear singing bird, watch then it's flight,  
Inventions, myths to wings aspire,  
Now gliders, lifting helicopters,  
Man propelled, jets, rocket-borne.

Would follow river's tending pass,  
With swim discover float, and flow,  
At delta, sea canoe oar dips,  
Sail, steam, submarine, passage span.

Fifty-seven

Dots of light upfill in space,  
The where rays passage find;  
Does water bright beams issue?  
Earth's center star shining hid?

Drops awash to pond enfold,  
Casual, splashing liquid bind;  
With ring liquid heavens surround?  
A peopled, shining pool in sun amidst?

At sea a point an island makes,  
Land's arrangement, continental thrust;  
While particles aloft, why never rest?  
What submerged alps, each peak a star?

Spin, re-tie, thin coupled net,  
Sky interchanging space's extent;  
Partners in water, penetrates mass,  
How with light relation keep?

Fifty-eight

Weave one vast tapestraic fabric,  
Threading light, visions color-filled,  
Where desire and dream interlace,  
A thought-spirited leap extend.

Weave one vast tapestraic fabric,  
Intersplice stream's fingered source,  
Arteries widen with impatient blood,  
A system form in all water's shape.

Weave one vast tapestraic fabric,  
Winds unmet yet in time's cross,  
Each breath's content exactly unmatched,  
For all activity give spacious stage.

Weave one vast tapestraic fabric,  
Latticed growth with mortar mass,  
Bone frame held in fleshed skin,  
Be things that matter may collect.

## Fifty-nine

With sun connecting soul,  
Find light as spirit's shine,  
Let mind thought radiate,  
Be flame, be flashing warmth.

Draw nearest sky to breath,  
Bid wind fill swelling lings,  
With air's single piece a-fly,  
Be space, be infinite levity.

Close with earth bone and flesh,  
Palms up, arms at side outstretched,  
In body form's compose exist,  
Be mass, be enduring base.

Blood's circuit involve with sea,  
Pulse to wave, passion tide,  
Juices living cycle sustain,  
Be fluid, be willing cascade.

## Sixty

Vigorous, energetic acting spirit,  
Exertion agitating plastic dream,  
'Splendent, vivid lucidity, flash,  
Call vibrating, mobility excite.

Levity's pneumatic ethereality,  
Stratosphere of vapors wrought,  
Floating exhilaration, flight,  
Call bellows, imponderable space.

Aqueous, hydrographic flux,  
Fluent ripple, swash, immerse,  
Torrential rain, surging flood,  
Call percolates, fluid juices purl.

Substratic object, lithic terrain,  
Unyielding hypostatic lump,  
Basis, stasis, bottom floor,  
Call gravitating, condensing rest.

