

**Poetry: “Departure” &  
“Respite” by Justice  
Castaneda**



# Departure

Once upon a time, I know I had a plan.

Going to come back, finish the conversation.

Keep all of the promises,

About how it all connected and why

There was so much there

To dream.

Overwhelming really, even takes the breath away,

Freefalling, I let it subside, and the memories fade;

Lake and Oceanside conversations,  
Moments to say  
I would never forget or let go.  
And I knew I would never come back  
So I pretend that I never want to leave.  
But I do.

And the coast disappears  
And you did as well.  
Hidden underneath the fog,  
Hiding everything;  
The mist came in and set us  
Right, and put us all  
To sleep.

The trains roll,  
And the sirens roar,  
Through the morning city;  
Urban rooster, setting everything to  
Go, and it's a  
Long day ahead.

Relaxed, just

Concentrating on breath.

I leave, I know.

This is what I do.

No permanence,

Or stake to claim or defend.

Just life and the road,

And everyone in between it.

Falling in love in the great cities.

But not all.

Not yet.

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## Respite

Once I drank

One thousand dollars

In a month.

Bit of beer

And lots of whiskey.

Just to talk myself

to sleep

At night.

And if you've been awake

As long as I have

I think you would've spent

One thousand-

One.

**Photo Credit:** [Abdul Rahman](#)