Poetry from Eric Chandler: "Hetch Hetchy"



THERE'S A DROUGHT / image by Amalie Flynn

Hetch Hetchy

There are two signs on
The towel rack.
One says, "cozy" and explains that
The towel rack
Heats your towels.

It's next to the switch
That fires up
The electricity to the towel rack.
That fires up
The coal fired power plant.

The power plant
Sends up the gas.
Is the drought because the power plant
Sends up the gas?
Either way, there's a drought.

I looked down through that gas at the Hetch Hetchy reservoir. White bathtub rings surround the low Hetch Hetchy reservoir Because of the drought.

The second sign on
The towel rack
Says they won't launder what's on
The towel rack.
Only what they find on the floor.

All the water in the city comes from The Hetch Hetchy.
They're conserving water from The Hetch Hetchy.
They hope you won't mind.

Enjoy your hot towels.

"Hetch Hetchy" previously appeared in Eric Chandler's book Hugging This Rock