

In the beginning

by [Sarah Rossiter](#) in the [August 19, 2015](#) issue

*Everything in the world begins with a yes.*

Clarice Lispector

*For Bishop Tom*

In the beginning there is only Yes,  
infinitesimal, infinite, invisible  
seed sprouting in the swirling dark,  
the slow integration, expanding,  
extending, the sudden explosion  
into light—baby, blossom, universe,  
all beginnings are the same—and Yes  
to a world begun before words where  
nothing separates this from that, and  
Yes to the senses alive before language,  
bird song, leaf shadow, skin touching  
skin, and Yes to Tom whose injured  
brain erases speaking, reading, names,  
but through hands cupped upon bent  
heads, his unimpeded heart pours forth  
with nothing to restrict the flow of Yes  
in beginning and Yes in the end.

*This is an updated version of the poem that appears in the print edition.*