

a pillar of salt

by [Emily Rose Proctor](#) in the [August 29, 2018](#) issue

is a monument  
to astonishment—to loss—to wives  
I might have lived—children I might have  
mothered—smothered in sulfurious flame—lost  
to a god I was told to obey  
a monument to what is  
essential—unbearable—what tears  
what preserves—perseveres  
in the face of loss—the sea of it  
what is extracted from the eye  
the I—the heart—the heart of it  
hard-hearted god—the hurt of it  
extracted from the face—the facing of it  
streams of loss—unbearable salt  
dry me out—I want to stay  
standing tall—stiff necked  
preserved in memory  
cured—curated—seen  
persevering in this desert  
scene of salty regret—looking back