

Never Again



Never to be seen again,
except in fading memories,
are curlews flying overhead
alongside the
mysterious starling
laughing owl
Labrador duck
Po'ouli and
passenger pigeon.

They cast dark shadows of themselves
down below, where they scarcely noticed
dodos flapping their useless wings
trapped on an island made inhospitable
once an invasive two-legged species arrived
taking dominion over all living things
in a world made into a gory smorgasbord
thirst quenched in still-warm blood:

Woolly Mammoth	Stellar's Sea Cow	Black Rhinoceros
Tasmanian Wolf	Baijii White Dolphin	Barbary Lion
California Grizzly	Caribbean Monk Seal	Caspian Tiger
Indian Cheetah	Pyrenean Ibex	Japanese Honshu Wolf
Toolache Wallaby	Zanzibar Leopard	Irish Elk

Unsatiated, they turned on themselves, in a horror of mass murder
made more efficient by their machines, until they were stopped
at least for the moment, when they were admonished:

Never again.

Never Again

.....
April 15, 2023
(Tax Day)

DAY 15 PROMPT: Use the last line from one of your poems as the first line of this one.

Prompter's note: You can use the last line of any poem you've written, but it might be helpful to try this with a poem that doesn't quite feel fully finished. This is a great way to see what more that poem might be trying to say.

Craft tip: See how your poem changes when you adjust the line lengths. Try arranging your poem into very long lines, and then try very short lines. Then try using no line breaks at all (this will create a "block poem"). Notice how each of these choices can change the felt sense of the poem's meaning. This is because line breaks help to create narrative timing. It's similar to the way meaning is made through rhythm when we speak.

CREDITS: [Tragic Stories of Extinct Animals](#), By Kaitlin Miller/May 1, 2018 2:32 pm EST

Read More: <https://www.explore.com/adventure/tragic-stories-extinct-animals>

ABOUT 30 in 30: April is National Poetry Month. Poets participating in "30 in 30" strive to write at least one poem each day. The prompts for this series were provided by Ella Peary and Emily Harstone, hosts of a 2023 poetry workshop sponsored by [Authors Publish](#).

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