survival is not a crime

By Beth Buczynski

the cloudburst has composed itself
and I am weeding
in the softened driveway. which is to say,
I am punishing resilience.

for daring to find purchase without permission,
for thriving between rocks and hard places, like

cheap tents by the river, blankets in a stairwell,
a plastic tote of clothes, hidden in a thicket
within earshot of the highway.

have we always been this way?
unconvinced by miracles?

soothed by disappearance and satisfied with emptiness;
civility restored. nothing to see here.

but why uproot, pile up and fling away
when we could cup careful palms
around mallow stems, inspect the stardust
in his wrinkled leaves?

why not gather at the chicory's feet,
lean in close to soak up murmured
fables of unbreakability?

why weed when we could garden?

More than 350 U.S. cities have enacted laws or measures criminalizing homelessness in the two years following the Supreme Court's Grants Pass decision. Seventy-six of Colorado's largest cities have at least one anti-homeless ordinance.

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