

# Rock Me, Mercy

By Yusef Komunyakaa

The river stones are listening  
because we have something to say.  
The trees lean closer today.  
The singing in the electrical woods  
has gone dumb. It looks like rain  
because it is too warm to snow.  
Guardian angels, wherever you're hiding,  
we know you can't be everywhere at once.  
Have you corralled all the pretty wild  
horses? The memory of ants asleep  
in daylilies, roses, holly, & larkspur.  
The magpies gaze at us, still  
waiting. River stones are listening.  
But all we can say now is,  
Mercy, please, rock me.

Yusef Komunyakaa, "Rock Me, Mercy" from *The Emperor of Water Clocks*. Copyright © 2015 by Yusef Komunyakaa. Reprinted by permission of Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Source: *The Emperor of Water* (Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2015)