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Atlas

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ATLAS

Amy Myrick

I wish that I
 like Atlas
 held the world on my back.

Then I could set it down
 and stop its spinning for an hour or two.
End the dizzying circles of madness
 and allow the calming stillness
 to settle in my bones.

I would stretch out my aching arms and
 breathe cooling air deep into my chest,
 sit down among the stars and
 stare into the vast nothingness.

And when at last,
 I, the great titan Atlas,
had realized
 that even I was small and insignificant
 among the scope of
stars and
 planets and
 space,

I would pick up the Earth again and
 hoist that mighty weight
 with the knowledge

It is not too much to bear.

