Labors of Chemistry

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LABORS OF CHEMISTRY

Teddy Lishan Desta

When I saw you that day
you were in much distress
over an unbalanced equation
that you feared would leave
the whole world, the cosmos
at risk; at the brink of chaos.

Ah! But only for this missing molecule
which you couldn’t tell, where it disappeared
to what thing it morphed; to which place it went.
What a loss!
That is why when I saw you next
you were running fast, down
the corridors of the universe
chasing the missing molecule;
not to leave the universe at risk —
unbalanced, unhinged?

When I saw you last
you were happy-faced
for the Right Side and Left Side
that were seamlessly in balance.
By Gosh!
no wonder you were happy-faced
as you met no wrath, no grudges
no anger, no rebukes
from the teachers, the sages —
from Dalton, or Lavoisier
Cavendish, or Medvedev.