

Dear Catherine,

Your poem's opening makes a case for why a work called "Parable" should begin with a sentence conveying

Time
Animalia
Act
Location
Result

Risk's reward? ("the female opened her wings")

Voltage. Not every gamble alchemizes.

Twenty years ago, my gamble was leaving music for Michigan nonprofits. One of them required familiarity with Clicket the Cricket who promoted seat belt safety. You'd be surprised how 2000s Midwesterners relied on spokes-insects. Often, I worked to a CD of Del Shannon's *Greatest Hits*, "Runaway's" falsetto standardizing a playlist. Syllables or nostalgia, this lineⁱ from another Del hit fits your fifth sentence like genealogists overlaying comparison DNA:

With love, from me to you.

And his, / at- tached to hers.

Commas—twelve in all—are "Parable's" control tower, two-word rhythms the radar.

One summer,
And his,
The birds,
And O,

The couplets' cyclical tapering/expansion (Lns 1-5, 6-11) in so compressed a poem underscores how even a phrase driven by hard consonants, such as "cacophony like drums," gravitates towards finesse. The birds "Coursing with currents of gold" are moral and isotope, "brilliant flashes" the progenitor of "jubilant flare."

Rarely do I note twinned sentence lengths, but yours beckon and beacon:

Sentence 2	11 words	hearsay
Sentence 10	11 words	wish list

Sentence 5	5 words	unity
Sentence 8	5 words	literally, the poem's moment of highest value

The speaker's closing petition to serve as technology, biology, and conflagration answers the question, Why appeal to a higher power's collision course?

For the record, I've said this prayer too.

Sincerely,

Jon

Prompt

Write a brief parable whose opening changes the original sequence's order: time, animalia, act, location, result. Replace alchemy with thaumaturgy ("the working of wonders or miracles; magic")ⁱⁱ. Commas, keep the rhythm. Twin two sentence lengths.

ⁱ "From Me to You" is "the first Beatles song covered in the US, preceding the US release of the Beatles original."

<https://secondhandsongs.com/performance/52059>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/thaumaturgy>