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An Official Letter from Kareem

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Ren Katherine Powell

An Official Letter from Kareem

Kareem writes from prison
scratch that
Kareem dictates a letter
from prison

Kareem writes a letter from the heart
from prison
too many limbs in a space
putrid exhalations and noisy hearts

broken pens disjointed clauses de-
composing from the heart Kareem dictates

Kareem writes a letter of sinews torn from bone
bone tablet with brittle
spurs while muscles seep into the liver
and he can no longer feel his own beatings

the space between muscle and bone swells
there's no room for the heart's surge
in a closed compartment of the thigh bone and the tibia

I was right the first time.

Kareem writes from prison