

# Quatern

## Stardust Descendants

When the planet Earth was seeded  
with sentient beings. Cosmic  
cousins had hopes we would bring light  
into the dark, cold universe?

What was the universal plan  
when the planet Earth was seeded?  
A way-station to other worlds?  
Cosmic experiment or pawn?

Or remnants from some distant war?  
Or an accidental landing?  
When the planet Earth was seeded  
did they come and leave DNA?

Earthlings from now alien worlds  
rooted, grew own varieties?  
Our transplanted roots got shiny  
when the planet Earth was seeded?

## Poetic Contemplation

To write poetry follow form.  
Lead straight letters down a straight line  
or see all the constraints are freed.  
dance different fonts, release words.

Musical sounds—nuzzle them close.  
To write poetry follow form  
to make rhymes resonate, resound  
or count out syllabic rhythms.

Intention guides the trajectory.  
Lines leap loopy loops down the page.  
To write poetry follow form.  
Suit individual poem.

The more approaches you know makes  
choice for each poem easier.  
Lead ideas, play around—but  
to write poetry follow form.

**Quatern:** 4 quatrains for 16 lines total.  
Syllable Count: 8 per line.  
Similar to Kyrielle and the Retourne,  
A refrain is in a different line in each stanza.

First line is the second line in stanza 2  
First line is the third line in stanza 3  
First line is the fourth line in stanza 4.

It does not have to be iambic or follow a set rhyme scheme.  
These examples are unrhymed.