



Art Eyes Science

Sand Castles; Or, Ode to Charlie

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Harry Lee Poe

The *foolish man* built his house upon the sand
in the dunes on an ocean front lot
(purchased from the man who developed the land
from wild jungle into suburban sprawl).

Once an island, remote and alone,
covered by myrtle and live oak
with a seasoning of palmetto trees
and a fringe of sea oats and marsh grass
populated by white tail deer, raccoons, and snowy egrets,
it is now transformed into a profitable resort,
a haven of golf carts.

Where gulls and herons once flocked by the marsh,
the smart set gather for cocktails,
the tangle of sea island plants replaced
by a landscape architect's design.

The tribute to prosperity rests beside the ever rolling sea
that piled up the little spit of sand
with all the stability of a sand castle
before the rising tide—
the sea that sits crouched
waiting for its next meal.

Hurricane season 2004

After dodging Charlie at Pawley's Island

Harry Lee Poe serves as Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. He has published several books on science and religion, including *Designer Universe and Science and Faith: An Evangelical Dialogue with Jimmy Davis* and *What God Knows: Time and the Question of Divine Knowledge with Stan Mattson*. In his spare time, Poe serves as president of the Edgar Allan Poe Museum of Richmond, Virginia.