Sustainability Studies

I've been trying to figure
where that feeling went

call it happiness or *joie di vivre*
name it the chartreuse promise
of unbridled self-invention

instead, the heart's rhythmic pulsing
its anxious insistence
and also the way it sometimes settles

and so, this acceptance

a bit more cayenne on the tongue
the skin’s blotched redness from his grazing stubble
shoes worn down by miles and days
just one leather bag for a lifetime
not the lion’s freedom

but rather the armored horseshoe crab

returning to the same jagged shore

for millions of years

not inventing

just breathing

such questions

is the world warming?

and what might that mean?

it is unusually mild this January

and last winter was the warmest

on record