

Being a Person
by William Stafford

Be a person here. Stand by the river,
Invoke the owls. Invoke winter, then spring.
Let any season that wants to come here make its own call.
After that sound goes away, wait.

A slow bubble rises through the earth
and begins to include sky, stars, all space,
even the outracing, expanding thought.
Come back and hear the little sound again.
Suddenly this dream you are having matches everyone's
dream, and the result is the world.

If a different call came there wouldn't be any world,
or you, or the river, or the owls calling.

How you stand here is important.
How you listen for the next things to happen.
How you breathe.