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## Washing Dishes With A Crab in the Sink

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A stool brought her waist-  
high with the sink.  
Just right for dishwashing  
on market day  
when the bound crab  
lay among the dishes  
flat on its back  
drowning in soapsuds  
gundies strapped with vine  
their power harnessed  
but alive  
down to the twitching claws  
of the legs  
that practiced running  
though tied

then, staying focused  
wasn't easy: soiled  
cups and plates  
and those cautious  
pop-up eyes  
becoming every minute  
warring clubs  
raised before her  
small life  
like a challenge.

Dishwashing day  
with the crab in the sink  
held a lesson  
she needed most to master:  
how to fight free  
from being held under.