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Ecology

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Ecology

Dave Schelhaas

Yesterday I walked a Gulf coast littered with broken shells,
the azure water bright as a color photo in a resort brochure.
Two pairs of dolphins swam just a short way out
in a casual search for food. Overhead, floating
in wide circles through the clear blue sky, an osprey,
white underfeathers bright as he angled toward the sun,
was also fishing. But not casually!
When he spotted his prey, he pulled in his wings and
dropped like a rock, like a boulder, like Galileo's five pounds
of feathers. Utterly reckless, he hit the water with a
grand splash and disappeared beneath it, then emerged,
writhing fish clasped in his four talons, his outer reversible toes
enabling him to carry it securely back to his mate
in their high-rise apartment where she waited
with their babes, open-mouthed,
eager for Papa to come home from the office.

It is an ancient arrangement
designed by a Creator whose ways
we understand less, the more we know.