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Alma

¿Cómo se dice alma en inglés?

I asked a friend during recess
in primary school.

Soul.

Like a glass pitcher full of water,
a shortcut to a river,
water stirring algae near the shore,
soul is a blue green word.

Two letters in the middle
cupped together,
two almost twin vowels
and something slips between:
is it only transitory?
is this door always half-open?

This word so different
from the luminous
hallway full of wind,
the revolving doors of *alma*
and its symmetry,
the two *a*'s gaping
at the beginning and the end.