

A Glass of Water

Thirsty, I turned the kitchen faucet on,
let the water run a bit
to cool it down.
More refreshing that way.

Taken for granted that it is
clean, fresh, tasty
and available,
this water awaits and fills our needs.

Easy to forget
or ignore
the fact of water's
scarcity, impurity, staleness
in some other parts of the world.

To walk a mile to fill a bucket
or boil each gallon before it can be drunk
and hike once more to sprinkle
the garden vegetables
is hard to visualize.

Surviving drought and rationing each cupful,
with frantic seeking for another source
of water just for sheer survival
is hard to visualize.

Newly aware of its value
and of our good fortune
I savor my glass of water
and drink it slowly.

Dee Doughty