**Making and Mending** *by Gill Learner*

After all the shaping and shifting, the naming,

dividing and gathering, the bringing forth,

he sat at ease, feet up, blessing what he’d wrought.

But midnight skies were blank, so he fashioned

tiny Mercury, diamond Venus, garnet Mars

and others, strung on threads around the sun.

But his jade and sapphire prototype, white-capped,

was favourite, smiled on every century or so.

Time came when he had to peer through haze.

Pleased at man’s inventiveness, he vowed to check

more frequently. Quite soon he saw the blue

was streaked with white, green scarred with brown.

He scowled, sent warnings – burst the earth’s crust,

whisked the air to fury, made bodies burn with fever –

but the changes speeded up.

Angry, he scanned the heavens, saw Saturn

with its icy rings, plucked one the size of Moon,

shaped it to a lens, held it up to Sun. He watched

the busy creatures panic, shrivel, drop until

nothing breathed or moved. He sent monsoons

to wash the planet clean, restored the caps

with icy breath, refilled the seas, set to work again.