

## Nothing Personal

James Baldwin

**For nothing is fixed,**

*Forever and forever, and forever,*

**It is not fixed;**

*The earth is always shifting,*

**The light is always changing,**

*The sea does not cease to grind down rock.*

**Generations do not cease to be born,  
And we are responsible to them because we  
are the only witnesses they have.**

*The sea rises, the light fails,  
Lovers cling to each other,  
And children cling to us.*

**The moment we cease to hold each other,**

*The moment we break faith with one another,*

**The sea engulfs us and the light goes out.**

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