



THE BROWN THRASHER'S  
SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION  
IS OF STABILITY, BALANCE,  
FREE WILL, AND INCLUSIVITY

## The Brown Thrasher

At my grandmother's house  
In central Louisiana  
On a cold winter's day.

The forest is quiet – really quiet -  
As if asleep, dreamlike,  
The day clear and crisp  
With not a sound to be heard,  
No leaves on the hardwoods,  
The limbs exposed, naked, stark.

Suddenly, there is a sound,  
At first faint, but I slowly move  
Forward,  
One careful foot before the other,  
The noise getting  
Louder,  
A scratching, a scraping,  
A box of soft items being  
Shaken.

I crouch behind a large trunk,  
Peeking around the edge  
To see the brown spotted bird  
With the long tail  
Tossing its head to and fro,  
Tossing leaves, making sound waves,  
Making memories for a young man,  
Memories of exploring the woods,  
Memories of a safe space -

My grandma's house,  
A house of love,  
A house of good smells,  
A house of food,  
A house of my past  
That comes rushing up,  
Leaving a lump in my throat,  
The brown thrasher and grandma,  
Sealed together in my mind,  
Sealed for my eternity.

So welcome to Earth Church  
Pull yourself up a pew  
We'll make some great memories  
For eternity for you