

Author's Introduction

A *Prisoner's Cave in Heaven* is something more than a prose series with poems. These poems and prose were written in sequence over a year's time. It was a time in which I was able to let go of desire as a supporting reality in my life and in my poetry.

The acceptance of oneself, as being alone, is half of that freedom. The other half is the recognition of what remains, beyond desire, that is not less than the life of desire, but is, in the freedom from the attachment to desire, a greater reality. I've led a life of many passionate attachments, not the least of which was my poetic attachment to desire itself, as if it were the horse and cart of my poetry.

I've long known that my passionate existence preceded desire. It's also clear that my passionate existence supercedes desire. I am alone, and being alone is the paradox of these poems; I have never been less alone.

Steve Abhaya Brooks