

## **Poetry Lives**

Poetry lives  
in no form

That can be  
followed

To paradise.

\*

## **Famous Poet**

Famous poet,  
with his knapsack,

Drunk,

Now, where  
did I put

My knapsack?

\*

## **Zenku**

The heart  
of being empty,

Full of sand, soil, water,  
wind and words.

\*

### **No One**

No one here,

Inside this  
disentangled

Scheme of things.

\*

### **Old Age**

Old age,  
my destination,

But my car

Has clean windows,  
front and back.

\*

### **New York City**

This poem  
is not about  
New York City,

O, maybe  
a little.

\*

### **These Bones**

These  
ambitious bones,

Push to emerge  
from beneath

Their timid  
wrappings.

\*

### **Wise to My Ways**

Wise  
to my ways,

She can tell  
when I  
have been

Drinking  
in  
the  
moonlight.

\*

### **Each Thought**

Each thought

Pretends  
to be new,

Wearing  
its great

Grandmother's  
dress.

\*

### **A Brisk Wind**

A brisk wind  
blows clean

The air around  
my head,

So full of its  
folly.

\*

## **Buddha**

Buddha  
made sitting

Something  
to do,

Relieving those  
who lie badly.

\*

## **The Morning Glory**

The morning  
glory

Survives  
the first frost,

Old age,

The first  
thought of death.

\*

### **Buddha's Face**

Buddha's  
face,

A sculpture  
in the garden,

Wise eyes  
see past

The stone.

\*

### **The Ancient Poet**

The ancient poet,  
in modern words,

Sounds chatty,

And then, *Bang!*  
the heart.

\*

## **The Sun**

The sun,

Blazing,

In the late  
afternoon,

As if night  
will never come.

\*

## **Staring Eyes**

Two plums  
on a white plate,

Pushing  
a hobbled horse

To the  
finish line.

\*

## **Booming Hello**

Booming  
*HELLO,*

In the  
packed café,

Sudden  
thunder,

Birds  
stop singing.

\*

## **Sand**

Ancient cathedral,  
old easy chair,

Made  
of sand,

Buried  
in the sand.

\*



## **Concert**

Some part

Of the concert  
on the grass,

Is performed

By the  
nightingale.

\*

## **No Home**

My shadow  
comes and goes,

Undependable,

Leader  
or follower.

\*

### **The Breeze**

The breeze  
on my cheek,

So slight,  
in its might,

I look to see  
its origin.

\*

### **War**

War,  
in the air,

None,  
in the heart,

Despite  
shrill cries,

This pond  
is at peace.

\*

## **Turning Pages**

Turning  
pages

In this  
old book,

Turning  
handfuls

Of sand,  
in the sand.

\*

## **Parrot**

Parrot,  
on its perch,

Ready  
to shock  
the world,

With its same  
old story.

\*

## **The Young**

Minds of  
the past,

Bodies of  
the future,

The young  
see,

Through  
present eyes.

\*

## **Solitary**

In this life,  
without solace,

Serenity dogs  
the solitary.

\*

### **Rain Has Me**

Rain has me  
wet and cold,

Inside,  
looking out,

Imagining,  
too well.

\*

### **All the Roads**

All the roads  
on earth,

Were once  
made of  
earth,

Time  
has passed,

But not  
the earth.

\*

## **A Moth**

Atop  
a wet  
trash lid,

The carcass  
of a moth,

Glistens  
in the rain.

\*

## **Green**

Green,

Beyond  
the window,

Recognition  
wanders

Between glass  
and grass.

\*

## **Umbilical**

Seeking  
a lost self,

I find my center,

Umbilical  
of the lost.

\*

## **A Friend Dying**

Death,  
a snake,

Swallowing  
itself,

To its own  
wonder

And  
dismay.

\*

## **In Flesh**

In flesh,  
for a time,

Until this  
partial earth

Turns  
its face

From  
the sun.

\*

## **The Reader**

Large room  
of empty tables,

A reader  
looks up,

And the room  
is full.

\*



## **Cold Air**

Cold air  
wraps itself  
around me,

A warm coat's  
replacement,

Sleeves  
of wind.

\*

## **Noises**

I hear  
noises

In the  
kitchen,

Grateful,  
I'm not

A freshly  
caught fish.

\*

### **It Comes**

It comes  
unbidden,

My heart  
broken,

Until  
each piece

Recalls  
itself.

\*

### **Two Pillows**

Two pillows  
on the sofa,

Unaware  
of the pair

I make  
of them.

\*

## **No Telling**

Poetry  
may be,  
for some,

An enlightenment,

There's no  
telling how.

\*

## **A Rock**

A rock  
appears

To sink  
in the mud,

And yet  
it is said,

The rock  
rose.

\*

### **Ex Libris**

The wind howls  
in my head,

So steadily,  
I notice it,

When it's  
gone.

\*

### **This Room**

This room,  
a cell,

This body,  
a prison,

This heart,  
homeless,

Wandering.

\*

## **My Hand**

Old worker,  
old lover,

Now a five-  
head lizard,

On the sofa's  
arm.

\*

## **The Mirror**

The mirror,  
kind friend,

Has been  
acting

Unfriendly,  
lately,

It appears.

\*

## **Performance**

Wind,

Along a wire  
fence,

Sun,

In the field,

For an  
audience.

\*

## **Author! Author!**

*Author!*

*Author!*

Shouts  
Daffodil,

Jonquil cries,  
*Not I!*

Narcissus  
nods.

\*

## **Cataract**

In this  
cataract  
of misty  
rain,

My eyes  
see the  
same

As they  
are.

\*

## **The Coat**

The coat of  
my ancestors,

Scratches,

Living in  
their skin,

A comfort.

\*

### **One Talks**

One talks  
of this,

The other  
that,

Another  
is still,

Everyone

Looks  
her way.

\*

### **This Brevity**

Everything  
passes,

These things

I've made  
for the ages,

Are brief,  
as well.

\*



## **Home**

My home  
in the world,

In these  
strong winds,

Is given  
to the world.

\*

## **The Leaves**

Tree  
leaves,

Schools  
of fish,

The ways  
of the mind,

All things  
named,

Bend to  
the flow.

\*

## **Rocking Chair**

Rocking chair,  
half-rocked,

Waiting  
for the rocker,

A dream,

So far  
undreamt.

\*

## **Awakening**

I prepare  
for sleep,

Rejecting  
sleep,

Drooping  
eyes

Dream  
themselves

Awake.

\*

## **Inside/Outside**

I know  
nothing,

Outside  
who I am,

Inside,

I know  
nothing  
better.

\*

## **Knowing Who**

Knowing  
who I am,

I know  
where I am,

Everywhere  
I am,

Here,  
I am.

\*

### **She Reminds Me**

She  
reminds me,

And  
reminds me,

Woodpecker  
drums,

All spring,  
for a mate.

\*

### **Mend the Web**

Nothing in the  
spider's web,

Nothing to do,  
but mend  
the web,

And wait.

\*

### **Love Song**

Young  
lovers

Forget  
the cicada's

Incessant  
love song

For their  
own.

\*

### **Cemetery**

A spring  
deer peers

From behind  
a gravestone,

Watching  
the watcher

Who sees.

\*

### **Foolish and Wise**

Wise and  
foolish man,

Here, under  
one roof,

Nature's cruel  
compassion.

\*

### **River**

River  
rolls on,

As if asleep  
in the night,

Awakens  
in the sea.

\*

### **The Chair**

The chair  
beside the road,

A throne,

Or else  
it's thrown

Beside the road.

\*

## **O, Not Another**

O, not  
another

Poem,

In this  
hurtful world,

Of beauty  
born.

\*

## **Rise and Surge**

The mountains  
rise,

And the seas  
surge,

Says  
the aphid

To the  
apple leaf.

\*

### **The Deep**

The deep,  
dark night,

Is a  
symphony,

Until I  
hear its

Soloist.

\*

### **Tired as Mud**

Tired  
as mud  
on old boots,

Caked and  
drying,

So close  
to the action.

\*



## **Sleep**

Sleep,

Pulling me  
to bed,

An intimacy,

More  
seductive

Than love.

\*

## **All of Life**

All of life

Reduces  
to a body,

This  
infinite

Universe.

\*

### **In Thick Fog**

In  
thick fog,

A silver  
bridge

Floats  
in air,

A black  
barge

Slips  
silent by.

\*

### **Fisherman**

Fisherman,  
at peace,

Without  
a pole,

No line,  
no bait,

A timeless  
wait.

\*

## **No Screen**

No  
screen,

No  
projector,

No  
film,

Perhaps  
an epic,

Or a  
cartoon.

\*

## **People at Tables**

People  
at tables  
talk,

Fall  
walks up

And  
stands,

Its leaves,

Still on  
the trees.

\*

### **The Field**

I go into  
the field,

Looking for  
the field,

Ah!

Here  
it is.

\*

### **A Delicate Soup**

A delicate  
soup,

From the  
boiling pot,

A doubter's  
face,

Pleasure's  
grin.

\*

### **In the Roar**

In the roar,

A singer  
sings,

Wet whispers,

In the  
raging

Waterfall.

\*

### **Concentration**

Chess players  
in the park,

Viewing  
the scenery,

On the  
battered board.

\*

### **A Small Man**

A small  
man,

A tall  
woman,

Dance  
in step,

Gazing

In each  
other's

Eyes.

\*

### **The Sun**

The sun in  
the afternoon,

Blocked  
by a wall,

It burns  
to burn,

Unblocked.

\*

## **Ancient Sign**

Leaders  
of religion,

Keep talking,

Under their  
ancient sign,

*Be still.*

\*

## **Transparency**

Clear  
sphere,

Sumptuous,  
presumptuous,

Dewdrop

On  
a translucent  
leaf.

\*

### **Love Flows**

Love flows  
freely,

When I love  
my self,

I love all,

And,  
more fully,

You.

\*

### **Before Buddha**

Before  
Buddha,

Where  
was

Buddha  
nature?

Before  
Buddha,

Sunlit shine.

\*



## **Wisdom**

I take  
a leaf

To heart,

To find  
wisdom,

I find  
neither,

I find leaf.

\*

## **Nameless**

Nameless,

The lion is  
who he is,

Likewise,  
with the lamb,

And  
the flea.

\*

### **The Wise**

The wise,  
old owl,

Hoots  
in the night,

Neither wise,  
nor old,

The owl.

\*

### **Moss Grows**

Moss grows

On a rocky  
tor,

Shaded

From the  
bright sun,

By a  
straw hat.

\*

## **Clock**

Clock  
ticks,

Time  
wanders

Around  
the clock,

With nothing  
on its empty

Mind.

\*

## **A Lost Friend**

A lost friend  
dies,

Her life  
lived abroad,

Unremembered,  
unforgotten.

\*

## **Winter**

Summer  
lost,

Fingers  
crossed

Against  
the cold,

Fearful fists  
of winter

Come.

\*

## **Their Love**

Old couple,

Matching  
gaudy

With  
gauche,

Their love,

The hope  
of the world.

\*

### **The Pines**

In the valleys,  
on the mountains,

The pines  
whisper

To each  
other,

“Shhhhhh....”

\*

### **Solitary Poet**

Thoughtless  
silence,

Stillness,  
solitude,

Turned  
to words,

Spoken  
to others.

\*

## **Snow**

Snow  
on my head,

Shake it off,  
it's still there,

Soon to be

My timeless  
bed.

\*

## **Neither**

Neither  
leader

Nor  
follower,

The moment,

In and of  
it all.

\*

## **Awake**

Awake  
in the night,

One side

Trades with  
the other,

Peace,

Uncaring  
which.

\*

## **Taste**

Taste  
lingers,

After  
the noodles  
are gone,

Listening,

For the  
dinner bell.

\*

### **Eager Wind**

Wind lifts  
the roof,

Blows down  
the walls.

Eager to  
move in,

Without  
baggage.

\*

### **All This Talk**

All  
this talk

Of time and  
timelessness,

Precipitates  
in the sunlight.

\*



## **Birthmark**

Birthmark  
on his cheek,

An ancient urn,

Aimed at  
his ear,

Endlessly  
pours.

\*

## **A Young Boy**

A young boy

Bends  
a sapling

To the ground,

Bending  
himself,

As it bends.

\*

### **A Rock**

A rock

Courses  
the air,

Who cares,

Striker or  
struck,

When both  
are wounded?

\*

### **Sunbeams**

Sunbeams,  
atop sunbeams,

On top of leaves,  
on top of leaves,

On the ground.

\*

Old woman,

Smiles,  
at her table,

No longer young,  
free from her youth.

\*

## **Eclipse**

Another  
eclipse

Of the mind,

Each night,  
deep asleep,

No moon  
to see.

\*

## **Palm Trees**

Palm trees

Encourage  
the wind,

Going  
with it,

As far  
as possible.

\*

## **Wonder**

Uncontained  
by any vessel,

Seeds  
in the wind,

The wind  
in a bowl.

\*

## **Rain Forest**

The sun,  
old uncle,

Pokes  
his face in,

The children

Begin to  
play.

\*

## **Crows on the Line**

Crows  
on the line,  
call to each  
other,

Call,  
call,  
call,

Call  
and call,

And call.

\*

## **The Path**

Tunnel  
in the trees,

A clear path  
to the road

The trees  
would

Disappear.

\*

### **Green Grass**

Beyond this wall  
of falling leaves,

Trees, green grass,  
eternity, more green.

\*

### **Shacks**

Shacks,

By the  
mogul's castle,

The presence  
of the rich,

Among  
the poor.

\*

### **Birds**

Birds  
chattering,

Water running,  
trees falling,

No sound yet  
from the sun.

\*

## **Peace**

With the dignity  
of its elders,

A small tree

Calms my  
harried mind.

\*

## **Awareness**

Not  
human,

It has  
no body

To call its  
home,

And yet,  
it is I.

\*

### **The Old Dog**

The old dog  
lay in the road,

Never  
more alive

Than the  
moment  
past.

\*

### **Home**

Fading sun,  
soft shadow,

Somehow,  
I am home,

In the heart  
of the light.

\*



### **Water Bug**

A strong  
swell

Lifts the  
water bug,

Who  
remains  
calm,

While its  
world roils.

\*

### **Mirror**

I left home,  
to find my home,

Here at home,

The mirror  
has no mirror.

\*

## **Was There Blood?**

“Was there blood?”  
someone said,

There was  
a book,

Torn from  
the heart

Of a tree.

\*

## **No One**

No one  
in my chair,

Yet I cry out,

No one here,

But my voice  
is strong.

\*

### **Only Orchard**

No seed, no tree,  
no fruit,

Only orchard,

As far as the eye  
can see.

\*

### **One Time Drunk**

Twenty-two years,  
one time drunk,

So many glasses,  
so many swallows.

\*

### **In Gratitude**

I write words  
I bare imagine,

For those  
who read,

With a bare  
heart full.

\*

## **Water Bowl**

Water bowl,

No sea, no lake,  
no pond, no mind,

But that,  
here,

Within this.

\*

## **This Morning**

Not one

With the  
morning glory,

This glorious  
morning,

And  
I am.

\*

### **This Pond**

This pond  
welcomes

All that  
thrives

Within it,

All that  
falls

Within it,  
too.

\*

### **Basho's Frog**

Basho's frog,

The splashy birth  
of true Haiku,

Welcome,

And good  
riddance.

\*

### **The Dance**

Spiritual  
selves,

Who drop  
their selves,

Go naked  
to the ball,

And dance.

\*

### **Ah, Science**

Swiftly, slowly,  
the world,

Slowly, swiftly,  
the world,

Ah, science.

\*

## **Here**

In this dark  
prison cell,

One breath  
escapes,

Then,  
another,

Then,  
the lungs.

\*

## **The Thief**

The thief

Knows he's  
been stolen,

Worse  
than that,

He can't  
remember

The theft.

\*

### **The High Peak**

Monks  
at the foot  
of the mountain,

Point to  
the high peak,

Where some  
have gone.

\*

### **The Painter**

The painter  
paints flowers,

Raybans  
by his side,

Paradise  
in his eyes.

\*



## **The Artist**

With  
a brush tip,

The artist

Transforms  
the world,

Then signs  
its canvas.

\*

## **Bird Painter**

Across his  
big belly,

He follows  
his eyes,

To their  
flight

In the sky.

\*

## **Nectar**

The nectar  
of berries,

Pots of paint,  
swirls of oil,

Grasping  
eternity.

\*

## **I Pull the Shade**

I pull  
the shade  
on the sun,

I know  
you're there,  
sun,

I can feel  
my heat.

\*

### **In Public**

I put my feet  
up in public,

The river  
runs under,

Still in reach.

\*

### **In The Crunch**

In the crunch  
of frozen  
snow,

Each step  
declares its

Brief life,

Long and  
loud.

\*

## **War**

All those  
who believe

They are not  
the same,

Head off  
to war

On the lie.

\*

## **One World**

One world,  
one timeless  
moment,

The jack  
rabbit

Leaps,  
stops,

Leaps  
again.

\*

### **The Cat**

The cat  
comes home,

Blooded from  
a raccoon fight,

Near death,

The cat  
comes home.

\*

### **Come Here**

Mother says  
to her brood,

Come here,

And bring  
your here,

Over here,

Right now.

\*

## **Cake**

How  
can I look  
at cake,

Without  
eating it?

Ah, I am  
cake itself.

\*

## **All Life**

All life

Is war time  
in slow time,

When I  
give it

The same  
attention.

\*

## **Success**

Working  
to grow old,

My efforts  
are not in vain,

Success,  
at long last.

\*

## **Crow**

Crow,  
dressed  
in black,

Tends birth  
and death alike,

Scarecrow,  
dressed for lies,

Tends life.

\*

## **Gazing Up**

Gazing up,

My eyes,  
lazy cats,

Fall back  
in their beds,

Looking  
for sleep.

\*

## **Guns**

With  
a gun

In my  
pocket,

I am ready  
for anything

But peace.

\*



## **Smoke**

Smoke from  
a distant fire,

I wonder  
what's to burn,

Between there  
and here.

\*

## **Students**

Students,  
all eyes,

Surround  
a baby,

Baby,  
teaching,

Teacher,  
set free.

\*

## **Deep Blue Sky**

Metal boxes  
flying by,

Deep  
blue sky,

The soft face  
of forever.

\*

## **Words**

Words,  
like swaddling,  
fill the crib,

The baby,  
in the folds,

Sings its  
birth song.

\*

### **Backpack**

Backpack, beside  
the hiker resting,

His tired dogs,  
ready for more.

\*

### **On the Path**

Footprints  
in the mud,

None  
in the stream,

As the unseen  
goes on ahead.

\*

### **Young Dog**

Big as a colt,

Bolts away  
from home,

Smells  
the ground

On the slow  
walk back.

\*

### **The Wanderer**

The closer to home,  
the more tired,

The closer to home,  
the less weary.

\*

### **Shadow**

Shadow

Cuts the wall  
in two,

The same light,

Made separate  
from the sun.

\*

### **Old Bear**

Old bear,  
back in town,

His home  
lost,

Seeking  
refuge

In a missing  
past.

\*

## **Eternity**

Eternity  
is forever,

Here and now,

In this opened  
moment.

\*

## **This Time**

This time  
of life,

This life  
in time,

A timely  
time-out,

From time-  
lessness.

\*

## **A Perfect Day**

Only  
this moment,

Between moments,

From horizon  
to horizon.

\*

## **In the Ashram**

Flip-flops flap

On the wide  
marble path,

Past  
the peacocks,

Preening  
themselves.

\*

### **Rainshine**

Something goes wrong,  
rain in the streets,

Something goes right,  
the rain keeps falling.

\*

### **The Chickadee**

The chickadee,  
small and shy,

Surrounded by  
chickadees,

Small and shy.

\*

## **Singing**

Singer  
singing,

The same sad  
song of joy,

From the heart  
of the same heart.

\*

## **Summertime**

Insects,  
in flight,

Born out  
of the air,

So thick,

It could be  
harvested.

\*



## **Hunger**

Hunger,  
on the wing,

An eagle's cry,

Tearing  
at the air

With its claws.

\*

## **Soft Breeze**

A small  
plastic bag

Lifts, darts,  
drifts,

In the  
summer  
air,

Lives,

With the  
breeze.

\*

## **Soft-Eyed Dog**

Soft-eyed dog

At ease  
on a leash,

Released  
from its own

Imprisonment.

\*

## **Rules**

Rules  
ignore  
the dog,

Dog  
ignores  
the rules,

And still  
they fight

In my eyes.

\*

### **Blanketed**

In a blanket  
of fat and fur,

The bear climbs  
the mountainside

To sleep.

\*

### **A Stunning View**

A stunning view  
from the road,

Turned around,

The city, torn  
and bleeding.

\*

### **An Understanding**

Weather,

Ill at ease  
with the runner,

The runner,

Of a mind  
to run.

\*

### **Tightrope Walker**

Tightrope,

From one cliff  
to another,

Underlining  
an asterisk.

\*

### **Highway Art**

Winding bands,  
striped in white,

Abstract sweeps,  
across the face

Of the earth.

\*

### **Sculptor**

Sculpting  
in stone,

In the light,

Nimble fingers  
work,

Moving lips  
assist.

\*

### **The Wolf**

The wolf  
stumbles,

Rights itself,  
trots on,

Boldly  
turns

To spot  
the fault.

\*

### **Privet**

Reaching  
in bushes,

They write  
their name  
on my arm,

Thumbs up  
from the bees.

\*

## **Foreign**

I'm foreign,  
in the land  
of others,

Until I see

My eyes  
in theirs.

\*

## **No More**

We kids  
on a fence,

Watch  
a drive-in  
movie,

No more  
buffalo  
roam.

\*

## **Gods**

Gods  
in glory,

Heaven  
in disguise,

A fat  
winter fly

Buzzing by.

\*

## **In This**

In this  
being away

From  
the past,

Time  
becomes

Ungrounded  
in time.

\*

### **In this Vastness**

In this  
vastness,

Flaking bark  
slips into

The open sea  
of the air.

\*

### **In the Shower**

A thread  
from the  
curtain,

Stuck  
to the  
glass,

A filament,

Fixed  
in space.

\*



## **Worker**

Worker,

Shoveling  
cement,

His boots,

Thick-coated  
cartoons

Of themselves.

\*

## **I Cloud the Air**

I cloud the air  
with words,

When inside

The poetry  
of words,

No words.

\*

## **Without Meaning**

Without  
meaning,

The old  
monk says,

*Zen stinks,*  
and dies,

Lies  
and dies,

Laughing.

\*

## **They**

These  
old men,

I'm younger  
than they,

These  
old men,

I'm the same

As they  
are.

\*

### **If I Go**

If I go  
ahead,

I lead  
the way,

Behind,

She can hear  
what I say.

\*

### **In My Dream**

In my dream,  
I am old,

The dreamer,  
ageless,

The dream,

Wrinkled  
and paunchy.

\*

## **Words**

Words,

Moonlight  
in a barrel,

No profit here,

Hand-me-downs,  
good as new.

\*

## **Repose**

The air,

Sliced  
by speeding  
cars,

Filling station,

In prosperous  
repose.

\*

### **Mindless**

Mindless

Of time's  
effect,

It's time  
to take

The aging

Out of  
my age.

\*

### **The Breeze**

The breeze  
in the trees,

Can't spell  
Charlotte  
Street,

Yet  
it goes

Where it  
pleases.

\*

## **A Worker**

A worker  
dusts

The Sistine  
Chapel ceiling,

The Buddha's  
smiling face.

\*

## **In Fire**

I fashion  
faces

On paper  
in fire,

For those  
behind

My back.

\*

### **On Seeing the Sun**

The first  
may have felt

Celebratory,

And the last,

Laudatory.

\*

### **Derelict Poet**

It takes

A while  
in words

To see

The true  
nature

Of anything.

\*

### **Predators**

Poems

Circle  
in the dark,

Aware  
of other

Predators,  
nearby.

\*

### **An Old Bull**

An old bull,

My hide,  
thickened

Over time,

Into its  
longevity.

\*

### **Old Man Walking**

Apace,

One foot  
in front

Of the  
other,

The same

Uncertain  
delight.

\*

### **Sleepy-Eyed**

Sleepy-eyed,

In this  
security,

This lazy,  
lovely,

Caged  
comfort.

\*



### **Down the Volcano**

Down  
the volcano,

Children  
smile,

In a  
country

Not my own.

\*

### **Her Watercolor**

Blue at the top  
for a sky,

A band  
of green,

Where we  
walked,

This morning,

\*

### **A Busy Mind**

A busy mind  
crowds

The path  
to the heart,

A carnival  
in the woods.

\*

### **I Love Her**

I love her  
utterly,

I only  
make it  
seem so,

By saying so.

\*

### **She Paints**

She paints  
the humble

Corners  
of things,

Even  
decay

Is her  
beauty.

\*

### **Infant**

Mother's  
hand,

Holding  
his head,

He looks at  
the world

And grips  
her sleeve.

\*

### **The Cold Wind**

The cold  
wind blows

In the big  
old barn,

The old dog  
barks,

The cold wind  
blows.

\*

### **The Good and Bad**

The good  
and bad,

Rumble,  
rush and roar,

No time for hello,  
or goodbye.

\*

## **Language**

Language  
dresses me,

A king's  
wardrobe

I cannot see  
in the mirror.

\*

## **A Coiling Vine**

A coiling vine,

These words  
in the brain,

Calling  
themselves

To their  
own dance.

\*

## **First**

First,  
all of life  
appears,

And then,  
the heart  
appears,

And then,  
all of life.

\*

### **The Wind**

Sun looks  
not for light,

Wind takes  
no notice

Of things

That blow  
in the wind.

\*

### **The Painter**

The painter

Does not  
paint

The subject,  
or herself,

She  
paints

The painting.

\*

### **This Flower**

This flower  
self,

Needs to change  
its water

From time  
to time,

To timeless.

\*

### **Clean-up**

Noisy  
refrigerator,

Water  
on the floor,

Old towel's  
new life.

\*

### **Seeking My Place**

Seeking  
my place

In the  
whirlwind,

I find I am

Mostly  
oxygen.

\*

## **Fang**

Fang,  
old dog,

In a photo,  
still old,

Old memories,  
seem young again.

\*

## **Do You See**

Did  
you see

That plumed  
bird,

With its mate,  
fly by,

A thousand  
years ago?

\*

### **Sun On the Table**

Sun  
on the table,

We are  
complicit,

Partners,

In this life  
of love.

\*

### **In This Life**

In this life,

I taste  
and spit

The absence  
of joy,

In the midst  
of joy.

\*



## **Heartbroken**

Heartbroken

In the  
unbroken  
heart,

I chase  
a flown bird

With my eyes.

\*

## **I Go Out**

I go out  
from inside,

To find  
how far

I have  
come,

To be  
just here.

\*

### **In Itself**

I don't  
think of her,

Yet  
my heart

Turns  
to see her,

There,  
here,

In my  
heart.

\*

### **Nothing**

Nothing  
remarkable

Occurs,

Except  
occur

And  
remarkable.

\*

## **Joy Comes**

Joy  
comes  
into

This  
paraffin  
heart,

Swinging

Its  
scythe

Of fire.

\*

## **Joy Is**

Unwound  
bundles

Of inspired  
breath,

Embraced

By a  
fingertip.

\*

### **To Have a Mind**

To have  
a mind

That won't  
quit,

One knows  
to quit the mind,

*Be still...  
good dog.*

\*

### **Homecoming**

Being  
in stillness,

Being  
with others,

Yet another  
homecoming,

\*

### **What Gives Life**

What  
gives life

To my  
peacock self,

That nasty bird,

Is my feeding it.

\*

### **After Words**

In their  
death poems,

Zen monks  
teach,

Or they pull  
their words

In after them.

\*

### **Dying By Fire**

Dying  
by fire

Leaves little  
of one's past  
behind,

Maybe,  
the shoes.

\*

### **I Live Here**

I live  
here

In this  
sweet air

Where  
she, too,

May appear  
and disappear.

\*

## **Fail**

I fail to paint  
a true portrait

Of the one

I've always  
known to be.

\*

## **Grief**

Grief,  
without

A ground

Beneath its  
grievance,

Is hard  
to imagine

Gone.

\*

## **When I Say I**

When I  
say I,

In cafés  
and Congress,

No one  
calls me

On my lie.

\*

### **All This Talk**

All this talk  
is entertaining,

Even the word

*Nothing,*

What a show!

\*

### **It Takes**

It takes only  
a little fear,

To stay away  
from this

Being here.

\*

### **We're the Same**

*We're  
the same,*

This is  
the only love,

That doesn't lie,  
just a little.

\*

## **I Have Come**

*I've come*

*Looking  
for you,*

*Out here,  
where you*

*Forgot  
to say*

*You'd  
meet me.*

\*

## **Rainbow**

Rainbow purse  
on a long strap,

A burst of color,  
in the shredding sky.

\*

## **Divinity**

Flowers,  
in their

Impartial  
divinity,

Uncaring  
who sees them.

\*



### **Sadness**

Sadness  
lingers,

Waiting for  
its dinner,

But I've lost  
its appetite.

\*

### **Shadow of the Sun**

To let a  
loved one go,

Takes more time  
than we have,

Shadow  
of the sun.

\*

### **Poetry**

A comfort,

When we  
were far apart,

Now, together,

A sharing  
of light.

\*

## **Saints**

For every  
saint we know,

There are  
a thousand  
saints

Of lesser  
renown.

\*

## **I Put On**

I put on  
a wise man's hat,

To see  
if it might fit

This unwise head.

\*