

d.n. simmers

Father

*“ Who is my father in this world,
In this house , at the spirit’s base? “*
Wallace Stevens

He is a shadow. Hangs over everything that is done.
He has a name and a face and some pictures.

Old and haggard he leans out of an old pickup truck
with my brother on the running boards.

As to what he did and will do is forgotten. He
helped to bring me life.

Even the words are hard to put here.

So many years of love and hate sit in the hall with the other spiders
and their webs. Some are still biting and are poisonous.

While the days are collected in the streaks where the
eggs are hatched.

Between the carcasses of the bees who came by to look and did not leave.

Released. Imprisoned.

They both have bars where liquid flows like the honey left in the hollows
of their drying wings.

*“when the body’s numb
Name is best”*
Gnomes Verses

A friend has left
will he retreat or return?

He was kind with his gifts
smiling when the crows sang.

Hatred was what drove him
to silence and he is gone.

While the world wings and whines
fingers move in silence.

As his harp and guitar were playing
in the corner where he spoke.

Wishes were like drops falling
faces where memories were stored.

Winter collects dots with the new
and the hair of the dog that bites.

Winter is in the forest and it cleans
while footprints are erased.

“ *When our cars touched*”

Linda Pastan

When touching us	metal
When shifting of skin	inside
To taste the heat of	life
While all around	dancing
When the moment	shook
When the wanting	hard
Without a tear or	beat
When life stood	still
In the late light	alive
When the soft thoughts	moving
To which is all that	feeling
Watched as all began	again

I thought that the days ahead would be better and
why not let this time be now and not walk away
from the thoughts and loves that were here and then
and so I stayed and was with the time and place
and when I walk around this is what was with me.

dn simmers is an on line special editor of *Fine Lines*. He is in an upcoming *Poetry Salzburg Review*. He is on line in *damfino*, *Homestead Review*, and *Whispers*. He will be in the upcoming anthology *Voice to Voice* with an art song and other poems and is currently in the anthology *Royal City Poets* (4). He is in will be in *California Quarterly*, *the Storyteller*, *Poets Touchstones* and was in an international anthology this past summer.