

David Anthony Sam

The Stone Bird in Exile

With stoic beak
I preen flints of feathers
from limestone wing
plucking memories
of flights over deserts
onto branches of the olive.

Such soaring
is a stone dream—
my heat comes from
a northern sun,
my motion is carved
commemoration.

Once I had black eyes
and dark passions.
The sculptor robbed
me of my flight
even as he carved
me in its shape,

In winter wind
I recollect the desert cold,
waiting for thermals
that will never rise
to lift stone wings
in hungry raptor's cry.

Born in Pennsylvania, David Anthony Sam now lives in Culpeper, Virginia, with his wife, Linda, and serves as president of Germanna Community College. He has two collections: Dark Land, White Light

(1974, 2014) and Memories in Clay, Dreams of Wolves (2014). In 2015, Sam was twice nominated for the Pushcart Prize.