

David Anthony Sam

Blood Cries the Earth

Hard wind whinnies a sirocco
in ghosts of dark prayer
and tombs are shattered.
From them cold mists
ride wraiths of pallid fathers
on the bones of their steeds,
man and beast alike
breathing deceits of frost
into the coming night.

The fathers shriek arcs
of falling detonation as
death falls across the desert,
and the sky empties itself
in falling shards of ice.
All murdered all
and pass this destiny of blood
to you who face each other
near black tides of a desperate sea.

With a Word you shout
your frozen history, drawn
and aimed by centuries
burning their desolation
across a sere land.
You raise your misunderstanding
in your hands
and speak weapons
that you somehow pray can sing.

Squatting in Sunlight

(After "Accroupissement")

He stomachs his lateness with a sick eye
from an upstairs window, watching
as the daylight scalds the empty street.
Life has migrained him into solitude
displacing his faith into a hungry priesthood.

The gray blanket of his dreams trembles
his limbs, his stomach speaking emptiness.
Like an ancient who would fish a dry lake,
he eyes the barren cupboard for a meal
that would dress him in white clothes.

Despite the hot sunlight, he shivers
back to the whiteness of his hymnal,
coughs his prayers into the whispers
that grow like a coral reef from
the minute life he has at last become.

David Anthony Sam has written poetry for over forty years. He lives in Virginia with his wife and life partner, Linda, and in 2017 retired as president of Germanna Community College. Sam has four collections, was the featured poet in the Spring 2016 issue of The Hurricane Review, and his poetry has appeared in over seventy journals and publications. His chapbook, Finite to Fail: Poems after Dickinson, was the grand prize winner of the 2016 GFT Press Chapbook Contest, and his collection All Night over Bones received an honorable mention for the 2016 Homebound Poetry Prize. As of mid-2017, David has served as poetry editor for GFT Press. davidanthony.sam.com