

Door Lock

By John Thiemeyer

I am looking dead on
 At a door lock that holds me
 Still as a photo.
 It refuses to let me go and I wonder
 Why.
 Why I sit here so fixed,
 When outdoors
 The whole world is waiting.
 The reason I slowly accept
 Is that this door lock
 Is my god for this moment.

I derive my good orderly direction
 From it, the hold it has on me,
 That I volunteer to it
 The faith I have in it,
 For lack of anything else
 These long days.

So, renewed, full of a kind of faith,
 I stand up
 And embrace this world
 And carry with me a list,
 a partial list, a child's list,
 of things I'm grateful for
 my undeserved bounty.
 The list begins with the door lock
 the space for faith it provides.

Winter Palette

By Patricia Hicks

In some places
 Furry faces sleep
 For the cold,
 Their snug burrows populated with slumbering fur
 And outside:
 Still, white chill.

In biting breezes
 Thick firs bend
 With the change,
 Their supple boughs plump with white winter burden
 Under bleak skies
 Grey without birds.

In California,
 Lazy days stumble
 Into winter,
 With barely barren trees etching subtle differences,
 While holiday lights color
 Rain, wind and fog.

In the arctic
 Winter sparks dark skies
 With dancing lights
 Over frozen seas; yet spends sunshine on Pacific waters
 Lapping warm waves
 On pebble island shores.

In the tropics
 Winter rains
 Sweat,
 While dry deserts celebrate with cactus, brush and rock
 Occasionally surprising everything
 With snow.

Fickle winter:
 Using every medium
 Over and again:
 A passionate mix of sun, wind, water, earth, fire!
 Creative and turbulent
 Treacherous versatile, unsurpassed:

Beautiful.

Poems Are Like Tomatoes

By N. Page

Poems are like tomatoes,
 They need care and attention.
 Some grow slowly,
 Some never grow at all,
 Never turn red.
 They kind of freeze
 Into a hard green.
 Some become big, red and juicy,
 With almost no effort at all.
 I guess it depends on the angle of the sun,
 The proper seeds, rain, water, care of all sorts:
 Love especially.
 The ones that grow from love,
 Ah —Those are the most delicious!

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