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Three Poems

by Martin Willitts Jr.

In the High Hills

In the high hills, trees shake their fists
to the surprise of sky.

What transgressions have I committed?

Blackbirds are blown through sky
into the other world
where things are never empty,
filling the landscape —
more —
into necessary readings.

In this other world,
distance is unknown —
no one has a word for it.

I want to go there soon,
soon as I am taken.

Futagawa

Based on the series by Ando Hiroshige,
The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido, picture
#34

1.

Cider trees on low hills,
too much temptation,
get drunk seeing them.

2.

Teahouse and rice cakes
reminds me
empty stomach, empty pockets.

3.

Which is poorer?
Me; or, the soil?
Both are tossed easily into air.

4.

Editor's Note

Guidelines

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Only small pines, shrubs,
monotonous walking,
numb travelers.

5.

I eat dirt,
pretend its sweet rice cake,
almost taste it.

6.

Someone is drinking
what I cannot afford,
but I fill with hope, anyway.

Blake, Even Into Death

Blake is said to have cried, "Stay Kate! Keep just as you are – I will draw your portrait – for you have ever been an angel to me." Having completed this portrait (now lost), Blake laid down his tools and began to sing hymns and verses.

Shall I draw you near me?
Shall I sketch you into my heart?
Shall I lift your face from paper to heaven?
O tell me the reasons for "Why".

Shall the angels meet me? Please do not cry.
I have been with them all my life;
now I leave you behind.
O tell me the reasons for "Why".

Shall I leave this world to a happy place?
Shall the world be better when I am gone?
My heart is tracing your memory,
and now it fills with Love to belong.

O tell me the reasons for "Why".
Stay, stay right where you are.
Stay long as you can;
but I have to move on.

To where I am going, I do not know.
To where I am going, you soon will be.
My heart is full of angel trumpets,
telling me the reasons for "why."

Martin Willitts Jr. is a retired Senior Librarian living in Syracuse, New York. He is currently tutoring fourth grade students, evaluates Prior Learning Evaluations for SUNY Empire State College. He has four full-length collections and more than 20 chapbooks of poetry, nominated for five Pushcarts and three Best Of The Net awards. His forthcoming poetry books include *Waiting For The Day To Open Its Wings* (UNBOUND Content), *Art Is the Impression of an Artist* (Edgar and Lenore's Publishing House), *City Of Tents* (Crisis Chronicles Press), *Swimming In the Ladle of Stars* (Kattywompus Press). He's also the winner of the inaugural Wild Earth Poetry Contest for his full length collection *Searching For What Is Not There* (Hiraeth Press).

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