

Retirement Poetry

By Ben Huot

Something to Crow About

On my way to the bus
For my morning medication
I am tired from my Uncle's visit
And loud neighbors over the 4th
Heat exhaustion yesterday
And a bad cough and headache
But today seems ok so far
And the light doesn't blind me today
Crossing the parking lot to the bus stop
Crows dive down from the trees
Several near misses because I ducked
And I realize they are at it again
Trying to avoid the trees
I walk directly out in the cars' way
But they continue after me
They fly ahead to the next tree
And wait for me to come by
So they can launch another Kamikazee attack
Dark as a stealth bomber
They attack with precision
Like a leaf floating in the wind
They strike without effort
With no predators
They fly without fear
Should I tell animal control
Or the bus station manager
I will never go shopping
In that center again
If only I had a shotgun
And better aim
No mental disease
And more lenient laws
I like animals
But not when they attack me

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Fire Qi

A morning greeting
A cool dining room
A table set the night before
People drift in slowly
The piano plays
Without a pianist
The cart begins its rounds
Familiar choices
And good eats
I chew away
A lively discussion
Of a time far removed
With each day
The embers grow
And the water evaporates
My old self comes back
Though sleeping often
And hearing faint odd thoughts
I learn new names
And faces become familiar
My mind settles
As does my apartment
Everything in its place
And I smile more often

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At Ease

I stand at ease
After a long speech
Each pace
Is now a little slower
There is no officer around
Not even an NCO
There is a softness in my speech
And nothing to struggle against
A freedom long awaited
And a helping hand
A peaceful island
And a restful home
Plenty of time for reading
With no deadlines or tests
My mind clear
As when I was a teen
Long discussions
Or a quick good day
The rhythm is natural
And feelings are not forced
With time slowed down
There is something of the eternal
A certain playfulness
Yet refined
And long lasting