

g emil reutter

Traveler

I.

Stars fade from sky
earth turns
a song sparrow on ground
its dark eyes blank
Falcon in tree
feathers twirl in wind
nature is cruelest in summer.

As the moon turns red
a python circles an alligator
squeezes its life away
a rabbit runs from a fox
until there is nowhere to hide
submits to its destiny

A forest mourns the
silent death of trees
scattered on its floor
as seedlings fight for
a taste of light under
aged canopies of still
standing trees.

2.

He isn't from here
walks the avenue
in faded shorts, filthy shirt
sneakers with no laces
his beard colored with
earth, a small shank of
hair stands unfurled on
top of his head.

On occasion he enters
the restaurant, uses the
bathroom, sits at a booth
orders a sandwich and water.

His odor wafts through the
air ducts, he pays in cash, he
leaves, they stare at him, when
the door closes, they all
talk about him.

3.

In the humid air of July
he walks the streets
knocks on doors
asks for votes, talks on
his cell phone about the
issues of day.

He was now an important
man with opinions on
everything and knew
there was no one else
who could do him better.

His shirt collar unbuttoned
tie loosened, he posed for
pictures as he talked to those
who came to the doors. Up
and down the steps, sidewalk
to sidewalk he didn't know it
would only last until the next
new guy with money comes
along.

4.

She sits in the gazebo takes in
the scent of hydrangea that
form a ring around it. Watches
buses travel in and out of the
loop deciding which to take even
though they all go to the same
place.

Sparrows sing in the bent maple trees
the bearded man sits in the gazebo
reads one of her Kingdom magazines
as the pol passes by talking on his cell
phone, pauses and waves at her.

She stands walks to the loop, boards the
empty bus, never tells anyone where she
goes.

g emil reutter lives and writes in the Fox Chase neighborhood of Philadelphia, PA. Nine collections of his poetry and fiction have been published, most recently a collection of short stories, *Thugs, Con-Men, Pigs and More* released in 2014. *From the Valley—Poems* will be released in April 2016.

He can be found at <https://gereutter.wordpress.com/about/>