

Joseph A. Soldati

Kudzu Jesus

Out our way Jesus has come again,
this time crucified in kudzu covering
a railroad pole near the Southern tracks
into Raleigh. A lot of people think
it resembles Jesus Redeemer down in Rio,
but that one is 130 feet tall and a *Wonder
Of The World*, which ours is not. Folks all over
tell jokes about how divine our Jesus is.

A man in Kansas reports that when he toasts
Wonder Bread, a picture of Jesus pops up.
In Connecticut last month a Holstein-Jersey
calf named *Moses* got born with the Holy Cross
on its forehead.

Magdalena Nelson (I'm not making this up),
over on the other side of town, says she sees
the image of Jesus on a bumper sticker
affixed to her toilet seat. And just today
a lady told me that when she iced
a too-warm sheet cake this past summer
for her church bazaar, the *Last Supper*
was revealed before it melted away.

Now I got to cut out the kudzu
before it takes over my backyard.
Revelation is everywhere these days.

Joseph A. Soldati has been writing poetry and essays since the early '60s, many of which have been published in a variety of regional and national literary and scholarly journals, magazines, and anthologies. A new chapbook, *In Italy – A Personal Journey*, , was published this spring (2015) by Finishing Line Press. Other poetry collections include *On Account Of Darkness* (2011) and *Apocalypse Clam* (2006) – also from Finishing Line Press; a bilingual volume of poems, co-edited, with Eduardo González-Viaña, *O Poetry! ¡Oh Poesia! Poems Of Oregon and Peru* (1997); and *Making My Name: Poems* (1990). Joe has also published a scholarly book, *Configurations of Faust* (1980). He is a long-time member of the Friends of William Stafford and lives in Portland, Oregon.