

## Dennis Daly – Three Poems

### Pottawatomie Killings

About eleven o'clock I guided  
Them across Mosquito Creek to the Doyle's  
Cabin—you must understand he was  
A prophet. "Ordained from eternity,"  
He said.

    Taking father Doyle and two  
Of his sons, we cut them to pieces  
With broadswords while the mother and her youngest  
Huddled in the corner of their home. I  
Was trembling, ashamed – but he  
Reminded us that one, "who sees not as  
Men see," forgives the dark, terrible  
Side of heroic struggles. Nevertheless  
I don't sleep. The power of his righteous  
Voice, "It matters not," drums through the night,  
Correct and calculated. Sometimes I envy  
The hesitation, the cowardice of most men.

### Afterlife

Position stakes out its claim,  
The same blur—each endless squint  
To find the apparition  
Re-defining her soul-self.

Her newest dress of torn ash  
Enveloping all in night  
From the dark sea shell entrance  
A swish of momentous fame.

Soon the next actor appears  
Amid the dimming stage lights.  
His seconds dissolve, screen dots  
Worn down, catching attention.

Within this grove they ponder  
Deeply the wave-like fathoms,  
A clarity through swamp fog  
Of fitted fiery weights

Set with exact precision,  
Tools of demi-gods perhaps.  
Blind waiting, a universe  
In itself, bodes birth again.

### **Broken Router**

Surge of electric bolt  
Blackened the insides, blew  
The wires, burnt the rubber  
Sheath firing up the power,

Letting odor trickle  
Through space and time's curved sag.  
Each idea falls away  
Unconnected with carve

Of story; the adverbs  
Lie gasping by the pool,  
Space slides down viper's hole  
Without especial pith.

Our audience awaits  
In modem's soft expanse,  
A universe adrift  
From mused generation.

**Dennis Daly's** first full length book of poetry, *The Custom House*, was published by Ibbetson Street Press in June, 2012. His second book, a verse translation of Sophocles' *Ajax*, was published by Wilderness House Press in August, 2012. A third book entitled *Nightwalking with Nathaniel* was recently released by Dos Madres Press. in April 2014. Daly writes reviews regularly for the *Boston Small Press and Poetry Scene*.