

## Immanuel Suttner – Two Poems

### 1.

I could get up and walk out  
and never come back  
just keep walking  
past the trucks and houses  
garbage bins and trees  
junk mail softened by leaves

I could get up and walk out  
red eyed and stiff necked  
without turning off the monitor  
and keep on walking until night falls  
and my body shivers in the chilly air  
so that all I can think of  
is warmth and light

I could walk past the loud  
the troubled the stony  
until they lost interest  
and left me alone  
I could walk through green hills  
and take some comfort  
down vaulted dusty roads  
past olive groves  
and spinifex grass  
and kangaroos killed by cars

I could rest awhile amongst dancing cosmos flowers  
til small things crawled  
and tasted my flesh  
and my flesh walked on  
shoes in my hand  
gravel piercing my soles

I could crane my neck at the clouds in the sky  
or stare at the drinks in the back of a shop  
so simple these choices  
the joy of the road  
and try to leave these habits behind  
the habit of waiting, the habit of regretting  
the habit of fearing what waits on the road

I could walk to a grave yard  
where cold winds blow  
and sit and weep at the grave of my longings  
for phantom what-might-haves  
and then I would walk  
to a maternity ward  
where small beings babble  
and despite my accretions  
be seduced and make plans  
for a wonderful world

and in that walking  
that resting  
that walking  
come to a place  
that hangs in the balance  
stripped of illusions  
kneel in the dust  
or stretch to the sunset  
and gather wood for the fire.

## 2.

After the seduction  
I wake up bruised and sore  
the green lawns and loving families  
in the margarine ads  
has turned out to be trench warfare  
the food they said would make me healthy  
has made me fat  
the car they said  
would take us on adventures  
ran over someone's beloved dog  
I look out all around me  
whadda I see  
I see a row of cosmetically whitened teeth  
coming for to swallow me

**Immanuel Suttner** was born and grew up in South Africa. Has worked as a journalist, scriptwriter and directorial wannabe. Degree in English and Hebrew Literature from Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Books include Cutting Through the Mountain (1997, Viking), a poetry collection called Hidden & Revealed (2007 Quartz Press/ Snail Press), Learn About South Africa Series (2007, Awareness Publishing) and a children's book called The African Animal Football Cup (Quartz Press, 2010). A proud father, he is currently weathering out a sustained mid-life crisis in Sydney, waiting for it to turn into a last third-of-life crisis.