

# Gary Glauber

## Expedition

Morning light casts shadows  
on shallows before me  
as I cast off, breathe in the coolness  
& head out beyond coastal banks  
into depths of greater confusion.  
Miles of brackish green drink sun  
as if seized with unquenchable thirst,  
so I turn the rudder toward the  
journeying orb as if it might  
offer a glimpse into where  
strange sideways halibut  
hide out in unison.

My ancestors would ride  
this same type of small craft  
into tempestuous ocean,  
courting wild waves into  
rough pas de deux, but still  
bending & breaking,  
returning triumphant  
with prize catch in tow,  
food enough to keep locals  
sated for a week or more.

Now there's community no more,  
ragged shoreline sold off  
to builders of condos on time share,  
mako sharks of marketing  
hawking deals on promises,  
handshakes, & artist renditions.

Gulls & small birds point the way  
toward some surface activity,  
but often that's a false positive,  
sign of feeding humpbacks below,  
air bubbles gushing with hope.  
More likely than not,  
I'll return empty-handed.

A taller man could rest on the moon,  
she said, look down & see schools  
of fish in session. So wise,

as if she hadn't already invested  
in that electronic finder  
measuring best locations  
with solar-powered  
high intensity GPS.  
It doesn't help any.

Those paying close attention  
can see through the native wisdom,  
folklore passed off as sage phrases  
like bad horoscopes & sailor rhymes.

At least my skin turns brown &  
the sun warms inner organs.  
It is a good day to fish, I say,  
paraphrasing Papa but meaning  
every saline syllable, smiling  
as if I somehow knew better,  
pretending become an easy act,  
gunning the motor  
& stretching out toward  
a greater infinity.

Gary Glauber is a poet, fiction writer, teacher, and former music journalist. His works have received multiple Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net nominations. He champions the underdog to the melodic rhythms of obscure power pop. His two collections, *Small Consolations* (Aldrich Press) and *Worth the Candle* (Five Oaks Press), as well as a chapbook, *Memory Marries Desire* (Finishing Line Press), are available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and directly from the publishers.