

James Valvis

On Reading Bruce Tegner's Complete Book of Kung Fu

First you assume the horse stance,
then deliver a rock-smash blow,
and if that doesn't work,
hit your enemy with a scorpion blow.
If rock-smashing and scorpions don't stop him,
turn clockwise a few times, step back,
and deliver a ram's-head punch.
It seems unlikely your enemy will want more,
but if he does
you can raise you left hand
in a knife-slashing blow position
and, without foot movement,
deliver the knife-slashing blow,
hopefully in a place that hurts him
slightly more than it hurts you.
After that, there are about 50 more moves
you can try before Tiger Form
gives way to Eagle Form.
If that fails, running's your final option.
Those moves are presumed known.

James Valvis lives in Issaquah, Washington. His poems or stories have appeared in *Atlanta Review*, *Blip*, *Bananafish*, *Confrontation*, *Hamilton Stone Review*, *Rattle*, *Southern Indiana Review* and are forthcoming in *Arts & Letters*, *Bartleby Snopes*, *Catalonian Review*, *Corium Magazine*, *Eclectica*, *Foundling Review*, *Honey Land Review*, *Los Angeles Review*, *Midwest Quarterly*, *New York Quarterly*, *Nimrod*, *Pank*, *Poemeleon*, *South Carolina Review*, *Smoking Poet* and many others. He was a two-time Best of the Web nominee in 2010. A collection of his poems is due from Aortic Books in 2011.