

Krikor Der Hohannesian – Two Poems

Angst

A door half off its hinges,
flapping in merciless wind -
a door that would rather be shut,
what are doors for after all?
Their duty to close out the elements,
as if one could hide inside safe hearth.
Such delusion! Oh mind, deceitful
rascal, you know all the tricks –
sarcasm, cynicism, mockery,
a vaunted army to be sure. But

lest ye forget – the body never lies.
An old story – the heart, where
love should abide, instead
pained early on by a door
slammed shut, behind which
sadness resides - a walling off,
a hardening against what was lost.
Instead of warmth, chill in the gut.

Heart, now old, is fearful –
an urge, unbearable, to run out the door,
flee the house of his shelter,
or so mind led him to believe. Truth
be told, mind has little use
for heart's angst, regards
him with contempt as some silly,
slobbering, vulnerable fool.

Stomach is no help,
a black hole of repressed rage.
Ribs, the bars of a jail cell
where air is forever stale,
breath squelched, while throat
spends his days stifling a scream.
Who, then, will stand up for heart,
open the door to love lost?

IF THE EGRET COULD SPEAK

The photograph, a gusher of truth –
the lone egret, tarred and feathered,

forlorn on the despoiled beach,
tears of black ooze dripping
from wings no longer able to fly,
nor swoop for sustenance
in the sulphered estuary –

stripped of primal instinct,
the urge to take wing, to dive and fish.
Instead, a slow migration toward death,
its gift of freedom, a cleansing.

Sadness engulfs me – heavy,
crude and angry. And if the egret
could speak? Might it tell the story
of man doing unnatural things,
boring the ocean floor four miles deep,
the greed, the arrogance of it all?

Krikor Der Hohannesian lives in Medford, MA. His poems have appeared in over 150 literary journals including *The Evansville Review*, *The South Carolina Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *Louisiana Literature*, *Connecticut Review* and *Natural Bridge*. He is a three-time Pushcart Prize nominee and the author of two chapbooks, “*Ghosts and Whispers*” (Finishing Line Press, 2010) and “*Refuge in the Shadows*” (Cervena Barva Press, 2013). “*Ghosts and Whispers*” was a finalist for the Mass Book awards poetry category in 2011.