

## Dave Hardin

### Breaker Bar

Every now and then I get the urge to lift  
the simple slender breaker bar in my hands,  
snap a socket on the square pivot fitting  
and go hunting for a big fat frozen bolt,  
one that hasn't budged in ages, rust bound  
threads that yearn to give held fast by a split  
spiral washer, a tense marriage of wedge  
to pent up tension, for no reason other  
than to feel the sheer unbridled joy  
that comes from applying Archimedes  
Law of the Lever, set to deliver  
a stunning verdict proclaimed with a sharp  
dry crack that travels through my hands  
my arms to light up some forgotten  
constellation in a dark and dusty  
corner of my brain, closing a circuit  
that began with the simple slender  
breaker bar bequeathed but rarely wielded,  
a conjure stick to summon you back to  
throw your weight around, tip the scales in my  
favor, balanced

**Dave Hardin** is a Michigan poet and artist with poems published in *3 Quarks Daily*, *Literary Kicks*, *Pocket Thoughts*, *The Drunken Boat* and *Detroit Metro Times*. He contributes work to *Scrum*, <http://scrumsideup.blogspot.com>, a blog of poetry and satire and self-published *A Ruinous Thirst*, a collection of poems, in 2012.