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Lance Henson

Poems

I

Where are you looking for me ...
With the forest burning

With the footprints of wolves escaping
our nightmares ...

Something weeping in our eyes ...
That believed we would remember it ...

And carry its bloodied stones
Toward the sea ...

This darkness and its mirroring pain
Is what we have become ...

Sitting by the frightened waning
Breath of the forgotten ...

From *The Dead Zone Texts*
5/8/17

II

Where the light mirrors through
Broken glass

These are the ones who know silence
Is their keeper ...

In what is mistaken for song

Is a scream in a language

Made of prayer

It will brush your hair
With its wind
It reaches toward you leaving its tracks
Suspended in the air

Where children left their clothing ...

Before their shadows

Took them home ...

Psalm from *The Dead Zone Texts*
9/2/16

III

I am this pulsing motion of being

Waiting for dawn

Arriving from its one mother

To fill the world with light ...

Here in this desert

A strong wind moves the smallest stones ...

How as the way the heart moves

Toward the unknown ...

From *The Dead Zone Texts*
New York 3/30/17

IV

Carrying things by their names

The passageways

Filled with shapes

We have loved ...

Not with this life...

But another life...

Whose shadow we are following...

From *The Dead Zone Texts*

New York 3/31/17

V

Dawn disguised as sorrow

Stands before the wintered plain

A wolf track fills with snow ...

Crow lands ...

Shaking its shimmering being

From the solitude of flight ...

Winter

Winter

The badger watching ...

Mahago domiutz ehiwoh

(Walking badger said this)

Bologna 14/01/17

Lance Henson is a poet of the Cheyenne nation of Oklahoma. He has published 43 books in 23 languages. An ex-marine and mixed martial artist, he has maintained a cultural indigenous world-view that opposes the mistreatment of indigenous peoples the world over. His literary project *Words from the Edge* has invited poets from endangered tribal peoples to Europe to share their stories and poems. He is an adjunct Professor of the Cheyenne Arapaho tribal college of Oklahoma. He lives in Bologna, Italy.

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