

Thomas Schneeweis: Poems

Poems

Thomas Schneeweis

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1. Poet I

He wrote of the small and large
of things done and undone
the words echoed
of loves gained and lost

He wrote of images circling in his head
expecting none to be read
or to understand the dread

2. Feelings

The flower opened quickly
as if she wished no one to
see the undressing
opening her nakedness to the air
the light warmed her body
the scent drew them
they licked her
they tasted her
and when they were done
she simply gathered her cloths
about her and drooping, wept

3. Night

The walker walks the town
his footfalls heralded his coming
no call sounded
no door opened him to feast
no kindly embrace
only darken light and shuttered door

The walker heeds no herald
The walker waits no call
No door key needs be offered
Death walks leaving his print on all

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4. Remembrance

to run, to play
in our allotted time
to scream, to cry
to wonder why
the dreams of youth
fade in Dark reality

5. He/She

If I were him
or him/me
If she were her
or her/she
the joined is we
she is not her
or me he
so we part
let it be

6. Fire and Ice

Of fires he spoke
Fires of night's passions desire
Fires of day's knowing hatreds
Fires of betrayal
long confusion
fires that end in ice

7. Two

The two speak
but need not talk
the two see
but need not look
the two hear
but need not listen
the two in love

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8. Poet II

The singer of words
to foil the wise
that content exists in context
of explanatory fascination
of messages
hopeful to touch the hand

9. Spring Wind

His warm hand tossed her garment
his fingers stroked her borderless counters
as her body warmed
she signaled color, scent
as the spring wind spread the seed
her body gave birth

10 L.B.

A child alone
A train whistles
A wave a smile
Thank you L.B.

11. Trains I

As a spider's web
its marks its traces
its moving carriages collect its prey
then delivered, returns to their cocoons
lies waiting their return

12. Trains II

Gathered, the places filled quickly
pressed forward
he felt her heart quicken
he pressed closer to her
each to each other
they left never to return

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13. Trains III.

wearing thin the walk
only papers speak to the assembly
as the carriage stops

14. Trains IV

The sounds echoing
fall
 fall
 fall
 fall

15. Waves

Endless repetition of sea to shore
life's' mysteries spread out
dies slowly twisting turning retreating
to its vigil
never to forget never to forget

16. Independence I

Unwanted at birth
she waited to be found
being found
she waited to be loved
being loved
she waited to escape
but stone wall and barbed fence
took her life
as surly as her own hand

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17. Independence II

Lines drawn not by map but mind
times boundaries realized and imaged
changing until those joined come apart

18. Other I

In two places
mind and matter
two creations
two realities
crossing

being made without consent
into an others choosing
fighting loss of self
matter meets mind
changing creators
destroying creation

19 Other II.

Tied by choice
not nature
they grew
joined were one
separate but the same
until the woodsmen came

20. Other III

letter sent not returned
words written not read
but by the hated
heartfelt the mind bleeds
pierced by unseen eyes

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21. Iowa I

Black and knotted
it laid until
with steel plow broken
its spirit rose and
claimed the people

the people were the
lands first crop
they returned to the
land the seed given them
and the spirit renewed

they found their strength
in the land and the land's
strength rose in its people
the land straight and furrowed

The land remained constant and its people to it
the people grew out of the land
the unchanging land
but the changing winds blew the fallow while
others dug roots deeper still

so it remained a land and its people

22. Iowa II

The weathered paper on the door
read only "gone....."
for the years destroyed the rest

had they expected to return
or sensing some tragic fate
simply left reminders of their state

penciled lines on the wall
ages for them all
perhaps they would return, taller now
to straighten pictures and fix the bed

the markings never said

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23. Images I

Through trough and crest
the seagrass flows
waves rise and lower
while beneath its darkened skies
a world watches its clouds
rise, fall, and be broken

24. Images II

To feed a nation
the night ship crosses the sea
two eyes lead its way
through furrowed waves
behind a swirl of dust and death

25. Forefathers

I. Land

Icy rock scared, the land waited
until broken by plant
it sent pillars to the skies
ringing the country, the wooden sentries guarded the land
until

II. Pilgrims

our forefathers with ax and prayer
removed the guard for church and preacher's chair
replaced nature's spire with that god made
until

III. Revolution

With Iron words and guns
Gods spires were taken down by man's contract with man
gone was nature's and god's preemptive right
until

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IV. Civil War

With man's contract broken, armies of men
fought that might makes right,
leaving broken the countries bounds
until with iron horse and steel tracks
that place the land on men's' backs
until

V. WWI

With spirit broken and land controlled
new men beckoned for what was old
with God's words freedom was renewed
and Liberty retained
until

VI. Depression

again, with broken spirit they called
not on god but on governments' might
to find what was right
until

VII. WWI

with just cause and hope they
battled until the ashes of their fathers rose and
freedom's pillars were made all around
until

VIII. Today

to protect freedoms wide
new pillars were made to ride
and pillars in the ground
not of word or steel, nor of wood
but of pure essence
until

IX. Future

Barriers built to protect
broke and now none is left

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26. Echos

While passing by a place once spent
I saw the echoes of my steps
a chair in which I sat
the floor where I played
the bed where I laid

I wonder if others recall
the moments at all
the tears on the table dried
the fears, the joy, the lies

The walls bear remembrance of my name
then of course others came

27 Graveyard Remembrance I

If you are walking by
stop for a minute
and pray for a man
who did not

28. Graveyard Remembrance II

You think me dead below
but I see your footsteps

Your thoughts I cannot tell
but by your foot falls I sense all

some a heavy, some are light
some are joyful, some walk as in fright

some are quick while some stop and stare
some are sinful others stand in prayer

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Alison Sundgren – Author

ice house

some squared.
some triangulated.
clarity
comes
occasionally
 cracking the surface
 frozen beneath
 still,
 white.
through fog and drift
 peripheral phrases
 fractured speech
 sentences now
 close to the main house
what calls me most
 to claim me bare
 I would follow you anywhere
 even on solid air

 on ice.