

20240130.1

PCK

Nature doesn't care  
If bones break when you fall

Nature doesn't care  
If tissue and organs freeze

Nature doesn't care  
If sun blisters skin

Nature doesn't care  
If heat dehydrates and kidneys fail

Nature made you  
Nature owns you

Nature grants you a season  
to grow, to learn

Then  
Nature culls you

Nature  
closes your arteries

Nature  
ruptures a blood vessel

Nature  
grows wild cells everywhere

Nature

closes your eyes

Every beautiful thing

is on loan

from Nature

Nature issues

a Promissory Note

with a balloon payment

Payment In Full

at end of term

20240130.2

PCK

I don't cry anymore  
I guess that's a good thing

I think about her often  
but my breathing doesn't change

My chores get done  
My new schedule runs

like clockwork

a structured routine which a  
warden would oversee  
all the cells in my body  
falling in step, movements, rules

I did not want

nor can escape

20240127

PCK

My future is like  
looking at a distant star

It is there  
it is far away  
untouchable  
unknowable  
floating in cold  
lost in darkness

My present  
is my feet under me  
my hands in front of me  
my thoughts  
annoying and ever present

I have been here before  
alone  
sad  
lost

Time  
changes  
everything

Your best life  
will pass before your eyes

Your worst life  
will pass before your eyes

In time  
my future will be

Dinner with my Love  
a movie on the couch  
and naked slumber  
pressed tightly together

My job now  
is to stay healthy  
and keep my voice  
in God's ear

Time and change  
will do the rest

20240120

PCK

The mountain is nearly lifeless  
Building is slower  
Hours of clearing snow  
before work begins

Standing in snowshoes  
drilling steel plate  
feeling the cold air  
drop to uncomfortably cold

The snow falls thinly  
then more steady  
then heavy enough to stop work

Put the tools and trash away  
Use the outhouse  
Head into the camper  
for warmth, television, food, drink  
Comfort

The snow accumulates in the dark  
Electricity in the camper delivers

The Earth is beautiful  
to feel, see, hear, smell

Then go inside where  
light, warmth, blankets, pillows  
books and journals  
embrace

20240119

PCK

54

by the time the gamble oaks have leaves

Time is getting thin

The workforce is getting younger

My 27 year career disappeared with inflation and rising rates

Even at its best it was never stable

My earnings are entry level

My retirement will be even less

I need a roof

Without debt

The one and only goal

20240114.1

PCK

I've seen old people  
who were alone  
Children moved  
No spouse – whatever reason

I just never really  
saw that in my future

I saw open fields  
with new growth  
new hills and new vistas

I saw people like addition  
more over time  
not less

But I am old  
and mostly alone

And fuck all  
if I'll settle  
for this



20240114.2

PCK

The snow came on time  
But not the real snow

The snow in October, November, and December  
was thin  
like a combover  
on an aging man  
who mistakes it  
as handsome

The real snow  
arrived the first week  
the second week  
and into the third week  
of January

I need to get to Heber

Tractor the snow into  
archeological temple mounds  
leaving white crop circles  
winter monuments

Hand shovel the camper roof  
to prevent it from caving in

Check for rodents  
Am I lucky still  
or must I kill something

Fire up the propane heater  
Check the CO2 sensor  
Watch a movie  
read, write, sleep

In the morning  
snowshoe  
Clear the workbench  
and build

From the trees  
my deer  
will emerge  
and watch  
me  
watch  
them

20240114.3

PCK

What I cannot have

I want

What I can have

I do not want

I'm starving

handed a menu of crap

20240107.1

PCK

The King  
is King

Because he establishes a place  
with rules  
with safety  
to live  
to work  
to survive  
and thrive

The King  
is funded by people  
who benefit  
from the King

20240107.2

PCK

*S*<sub>now</sub> *F*<sub>alls</sub>

*E*<sub>arth</sub> *F*<sub>reezes</sub>

*D*<sub>arkness</sub> *R*<sub>ules</sub>

*W*<sub>armth</sub> *I*<sub>nside</sub>

*L*<sub>ight</sub> *I*<sub>nside</sub>

*W*<sub>inter's</sub> *D*<sub>elight</sub>

20240107.3

PCK

I prayed the other night  
for blessings upon  
a half dozen women

that I didn't know  
seven months ago

Where one story ends  
a library begins

20240107.4

PCK

If I could know  
the heart and mind  
of every person alive

I would pray for each person  
earnestly  
sincerely

Upon finishing my prayers  
I would climb into bed

and sleep with you

20240107.5

PCK

My heart will stop someday  
and life will end

But my soul  
has reached  
way beyond this body

My voice has reached God's ear  
His Spirit has danced with my spirit

I cannot see that existence  
can be contained

by flesh



20240103.1

PCK

Winter solstice  
slipped by

Winter weather  
stopping by

The slog  
will be long  
through the slush  
and the smog

Spring will crack  
the first tulip  
through the ice

Summer will blossom  
green  
and bright  
and sweet

Autumn will  
Fall  
on your street  
on my mountain

The two  
miles  
and seasons  
and lifetimes  
apart

20240103.2

PCK

Your math  
is right

My math  
is right

Lonely  
the night

A sum for you

A different sum for me

20240103.3

PCK

My hand  
holds a pen

holds a memory

of holding you

20240103.4

PCK

The bitter matches  
the sweet

and the sweet was  
perfectly  
beautifully  
soulfully

sweet

20240103.5

PCK

I never got to give you  
the one thing I wanted to give

all

the rest

of me

20240103.6

PCK

If there is a God  
who loves me

He will walk  
with you