

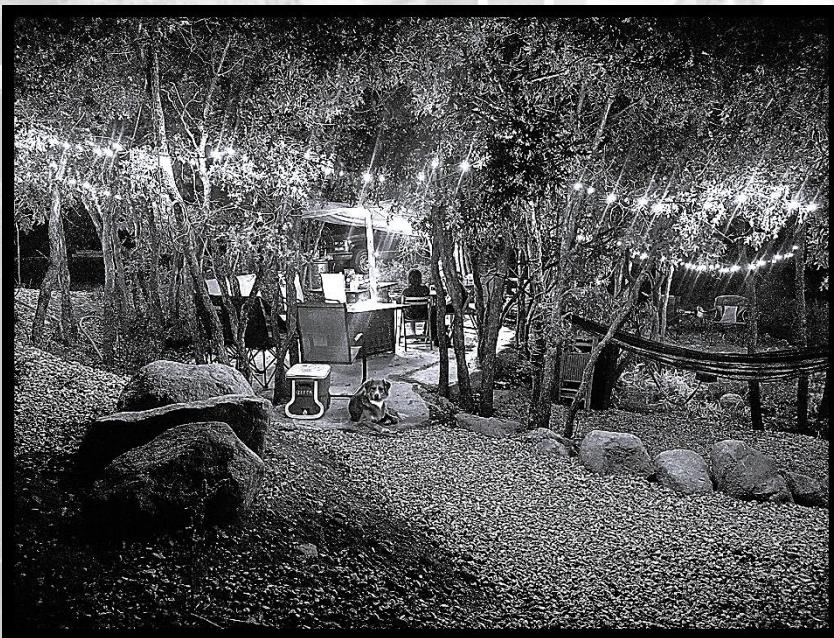
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# A Human Life

a book of poems

by  
pc keefer

book three



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end

191



## 20240103.1 | miles and lifetimes

winter solstice  
slipped by

winter weather  
stopping by

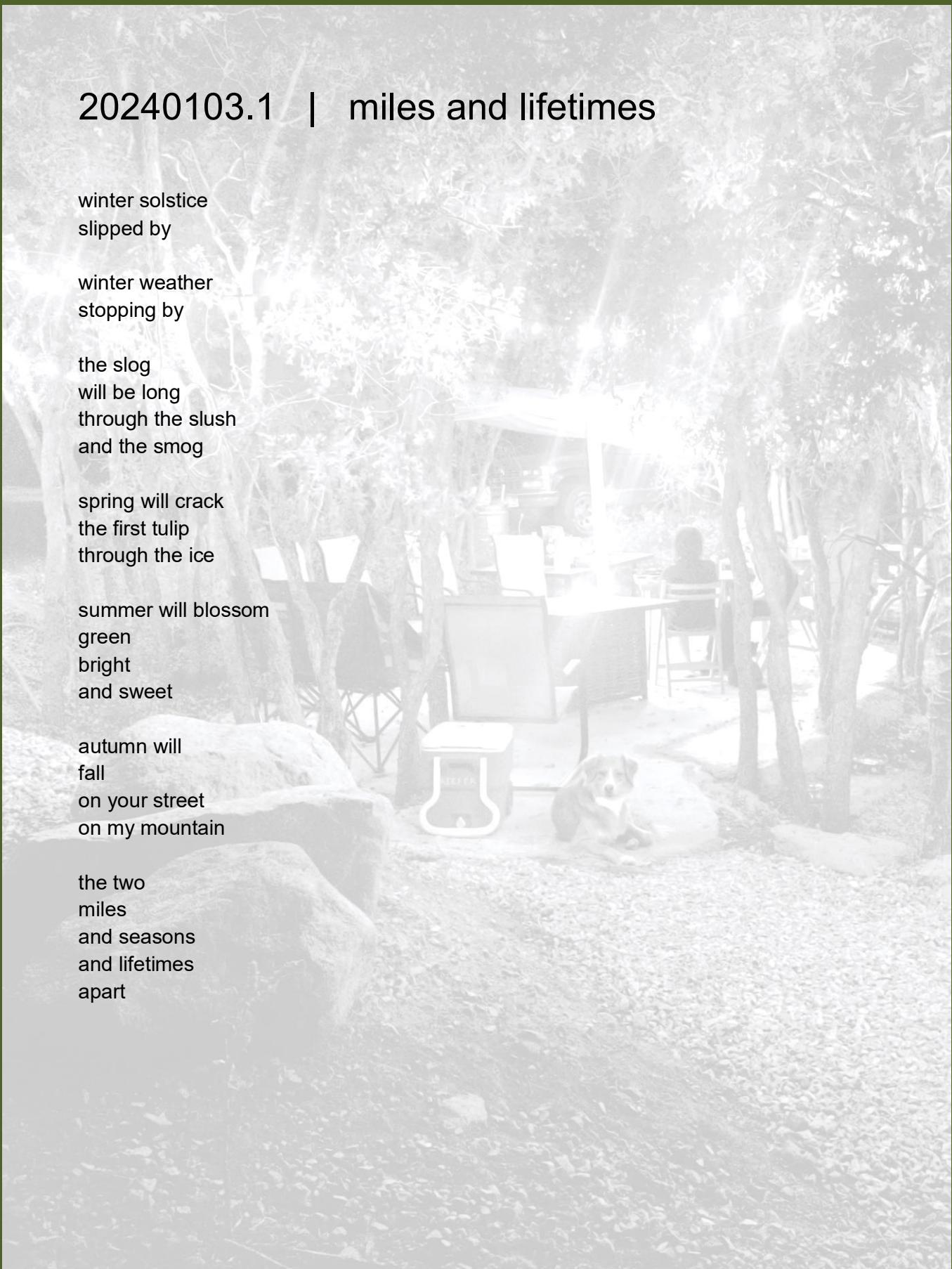
the slog  
will be long  
through the slush  
and the smog

spring will crack  
the first tulip  
through the ice

summer will blossom  
green  
bright  
and sweet

autumn will  
fall  
on your street  
on my mountain

the two  
miles  
and seasons  
and lifetimes  
apart



## 20240103.2 | a sum for you

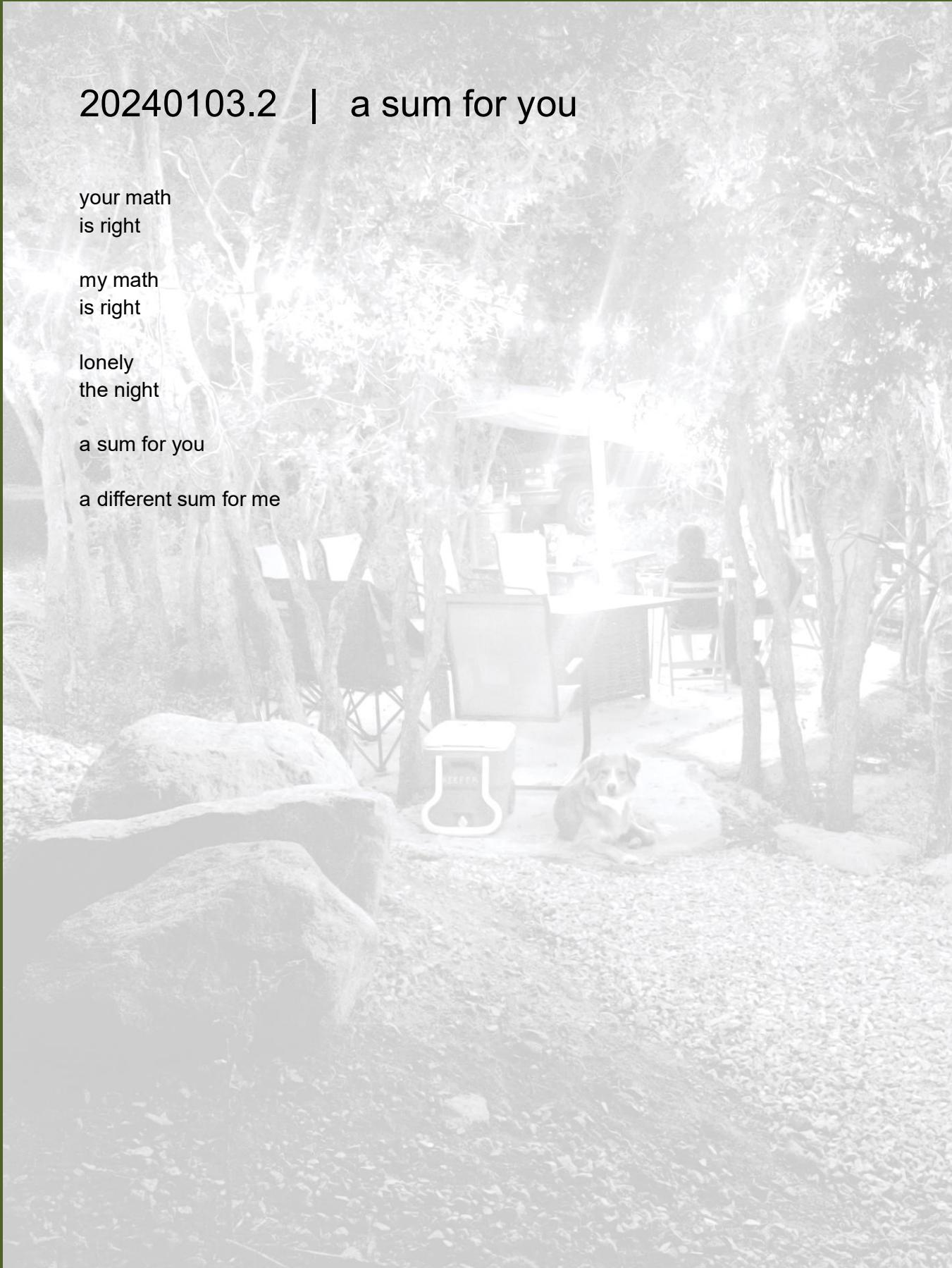
your math  
is right

my math  
is right

lonely  
the night

a sum for you

a different sum for me

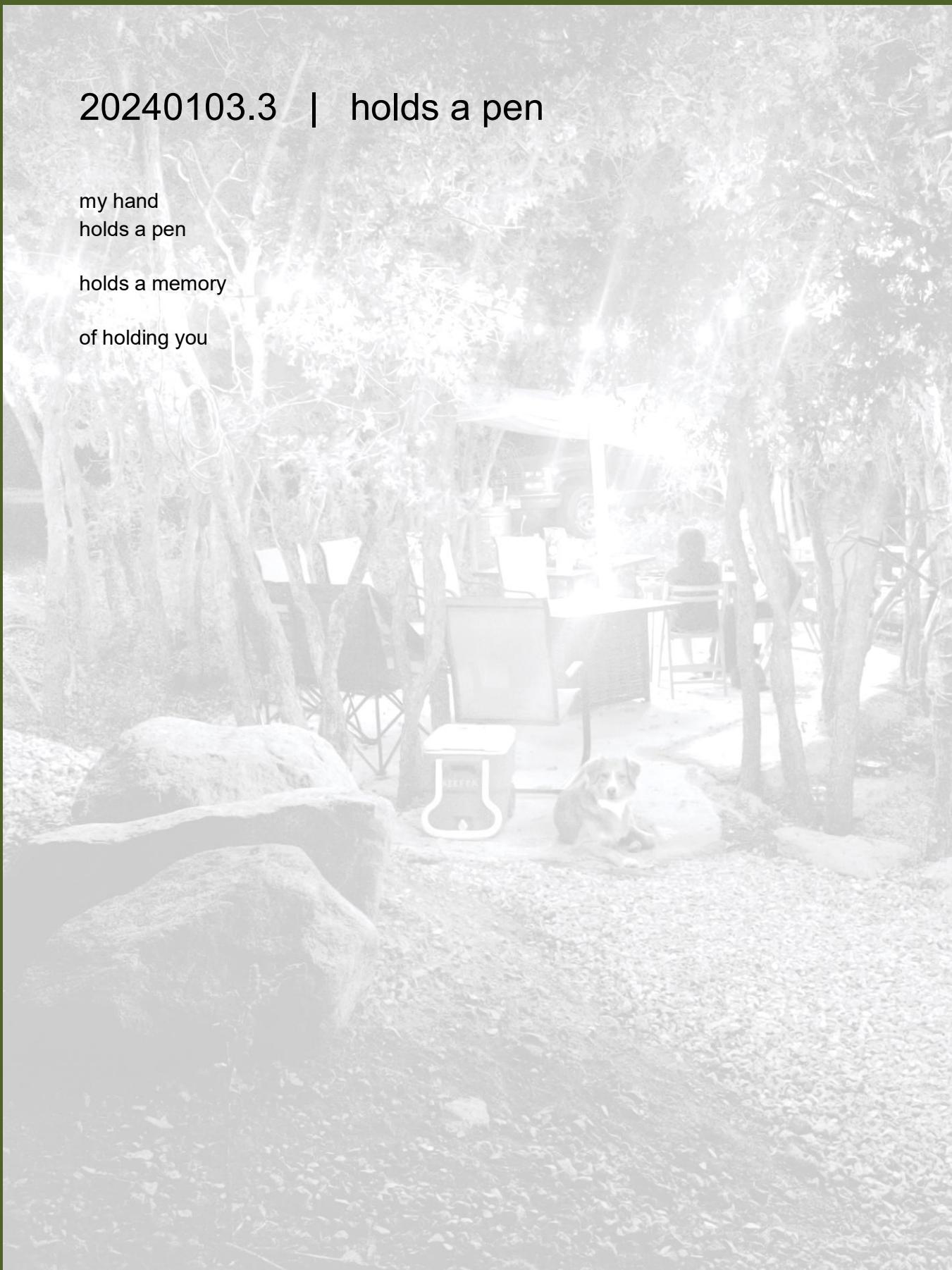


20240103.3 | holds a pen

my hand  
holds a pen

holds a memory

of holding you

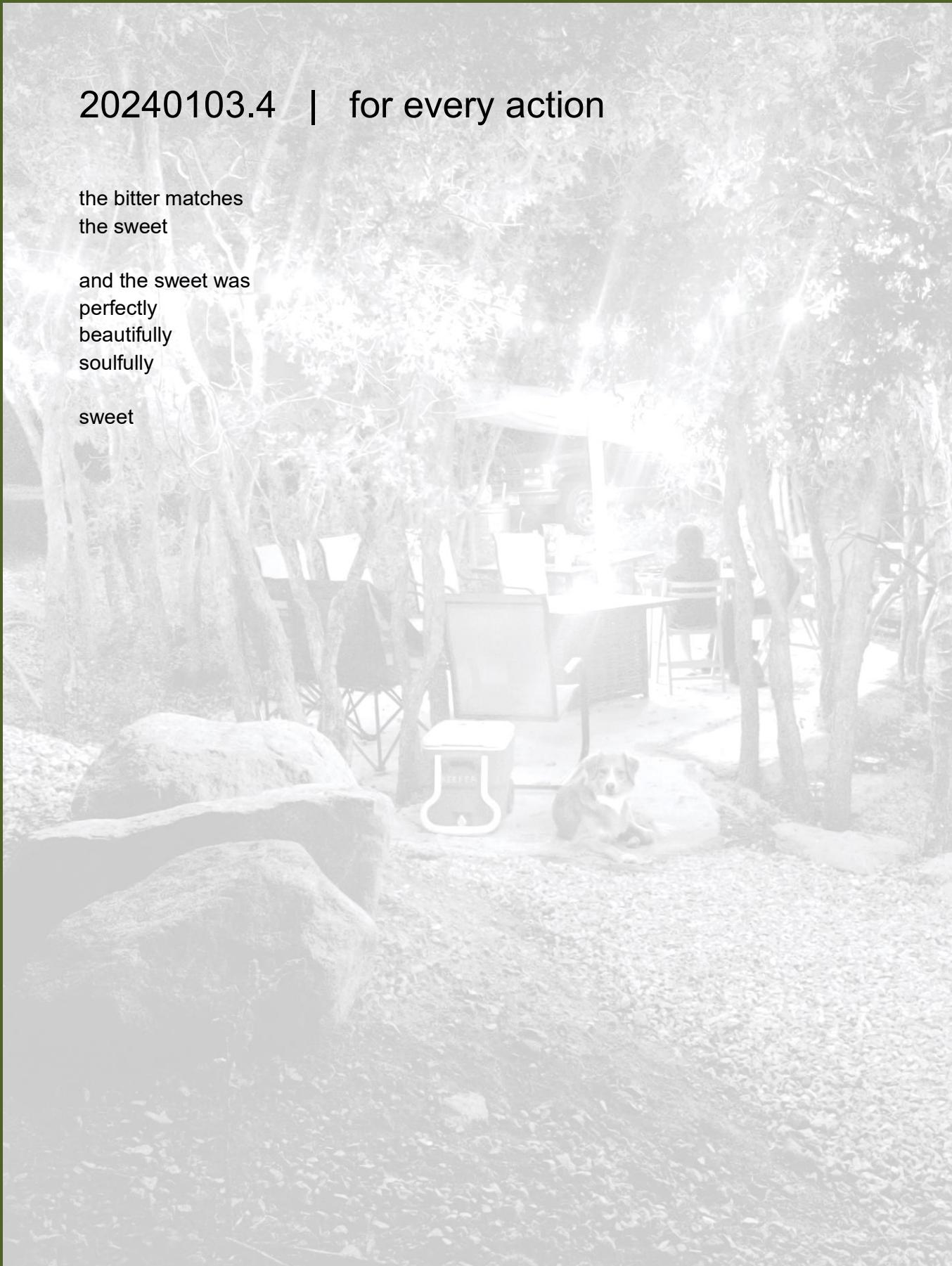


## 20240103.4 | for every action

the bitter matches  
the sweet

and the sweet was  
perfectly  
beautifully  
soulfully

sweet



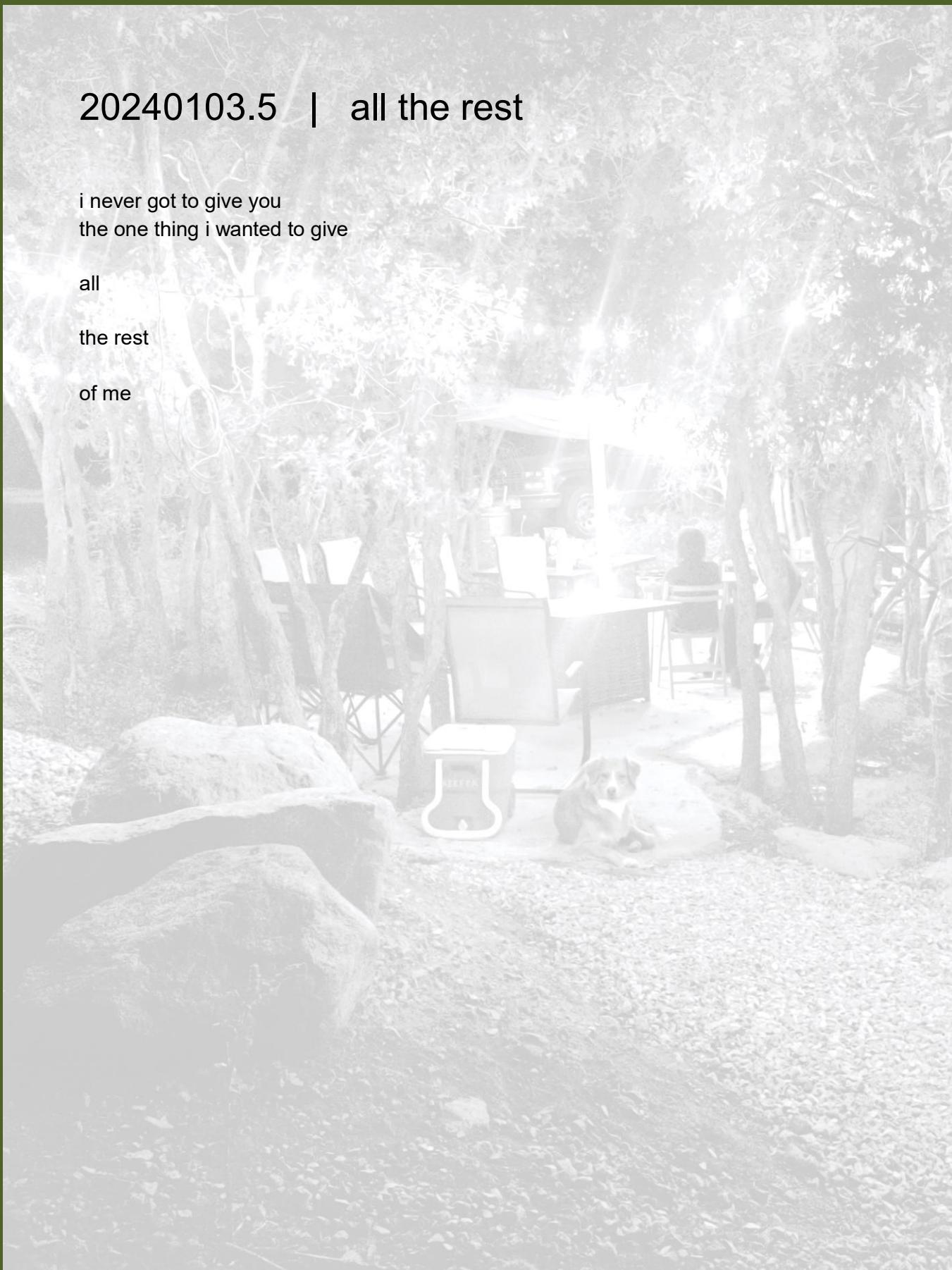
20240103.5 | all the rest

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

all

the rest

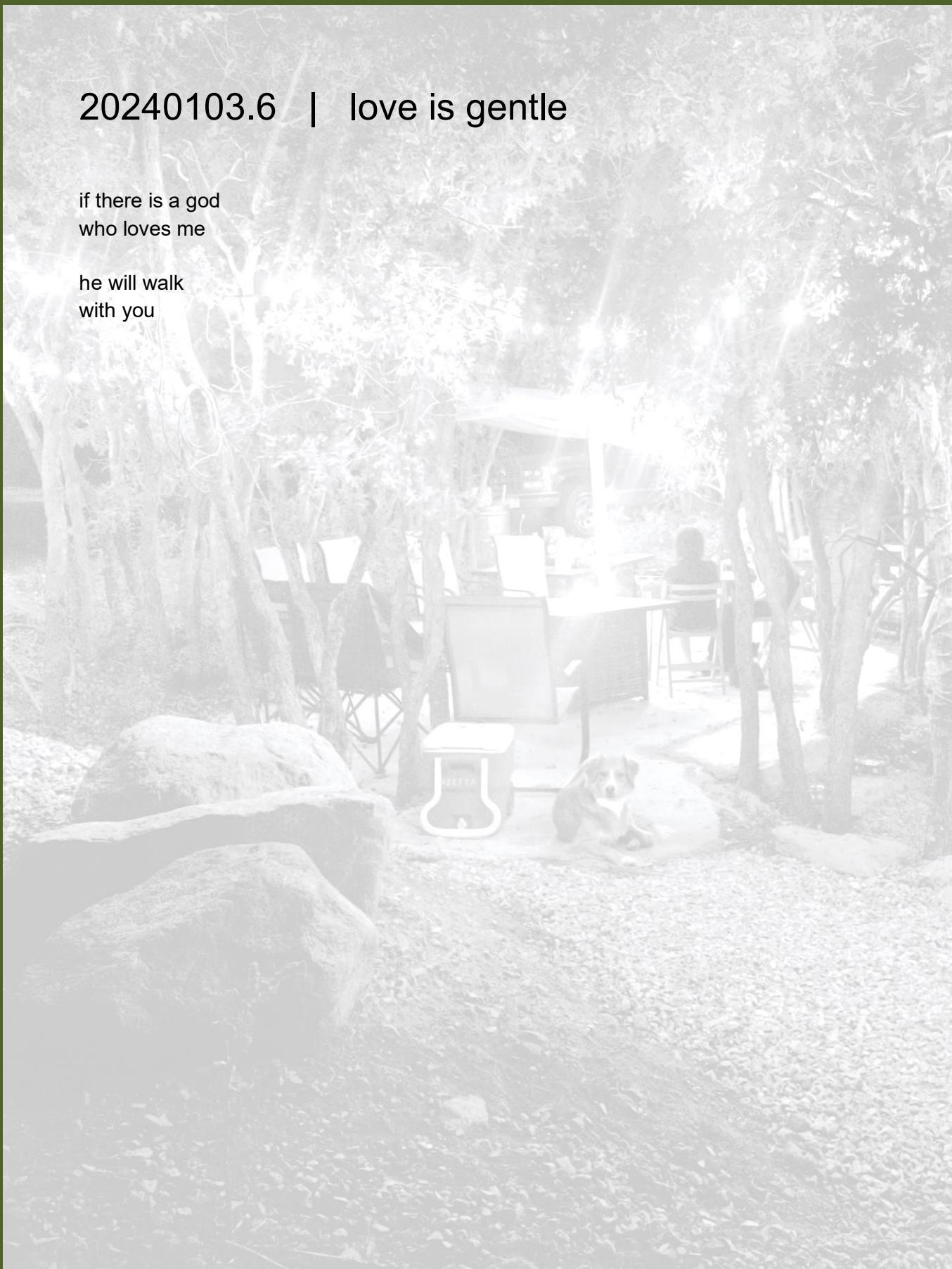
of me



20240103.6 | love is gentle

if there is a god  
who loves me

he will walk  
with you

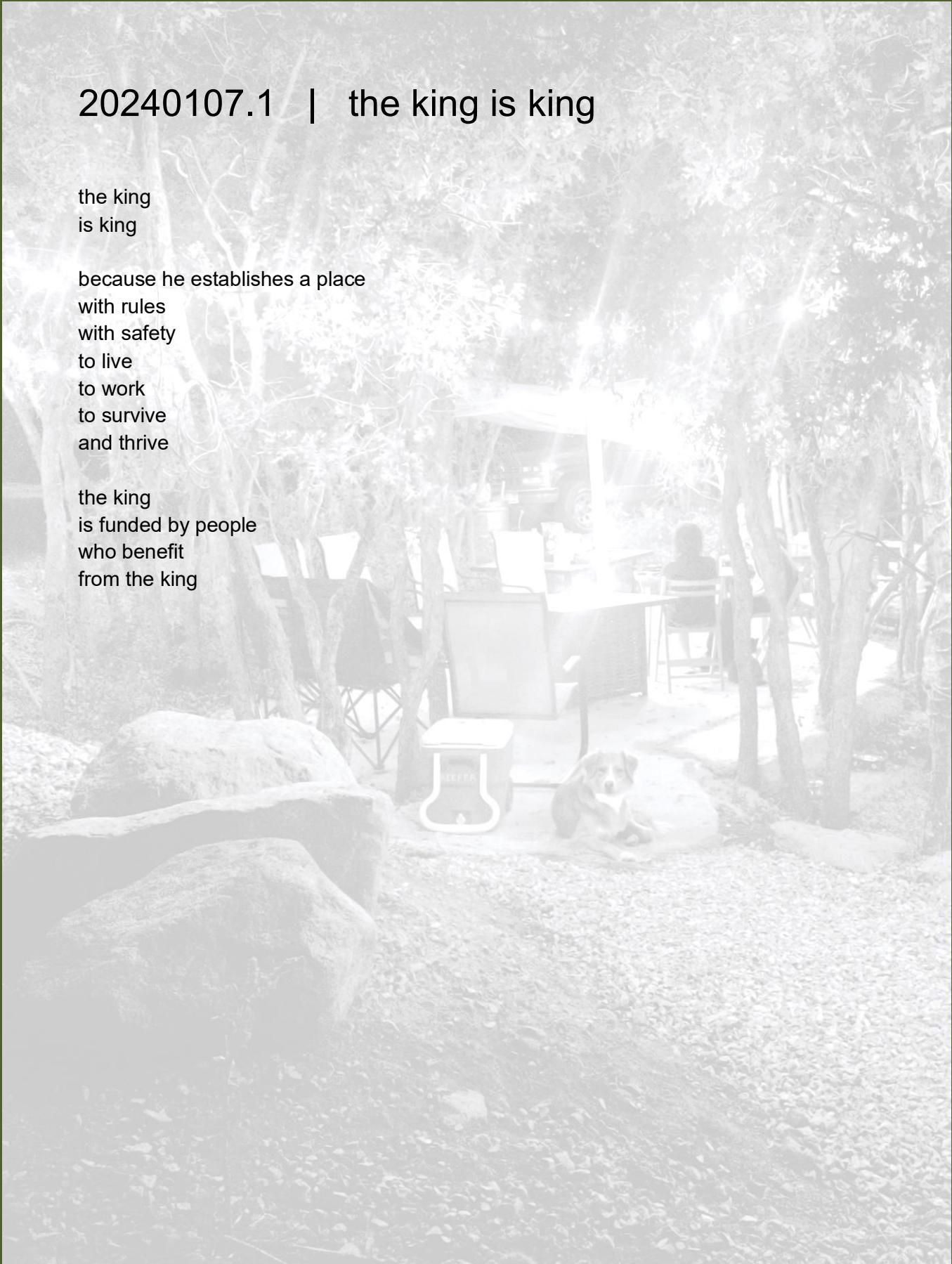


## 20240107.1 | the king is king

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 | winter snow

*S*now *F*alls

*E*arth *F*reezes

*D*arkness *R*ules

*W*armth *I*nside

*L*ight *I*nside

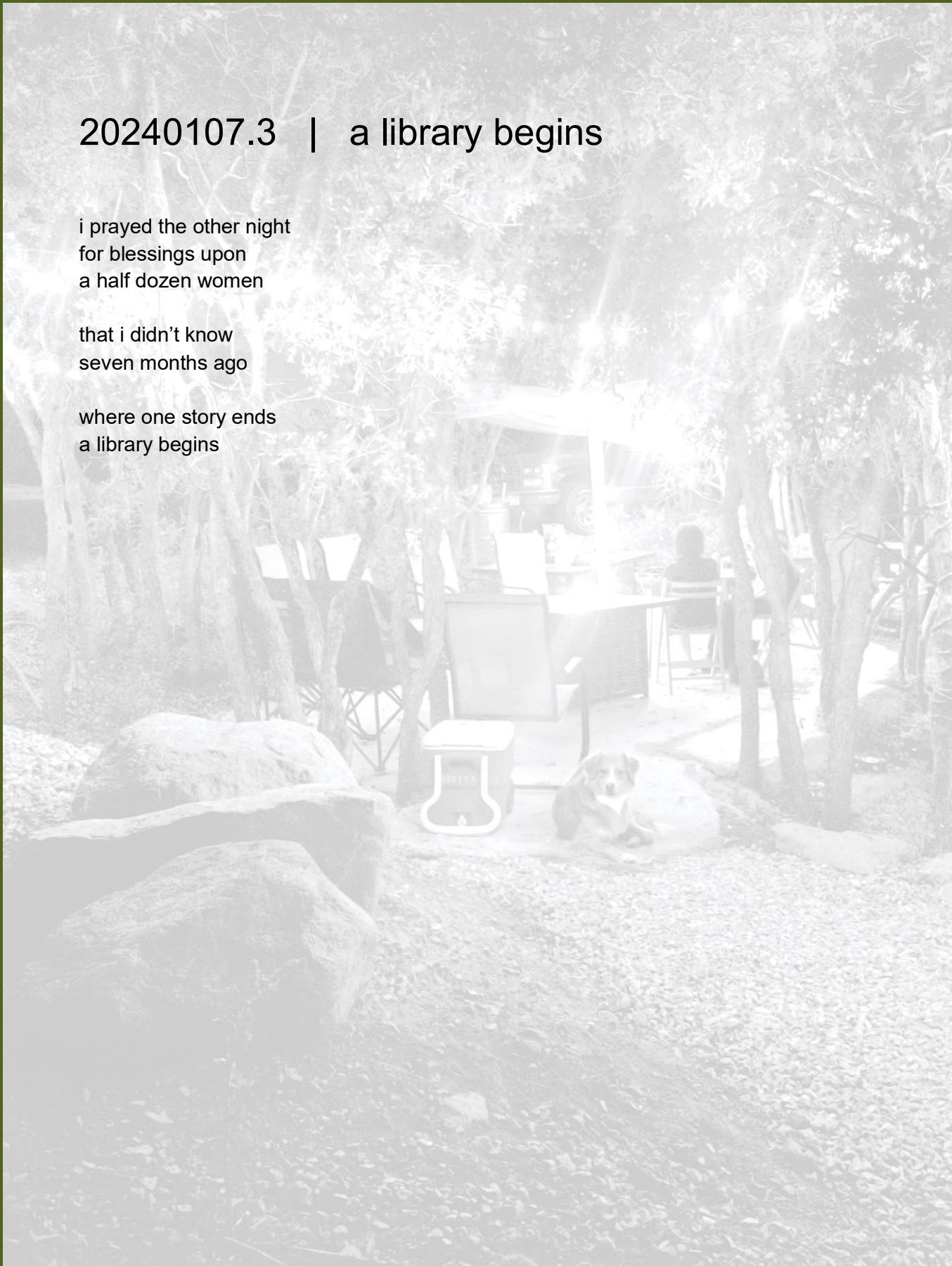
*W*inter's *D*elight

## 20240107.3 | a library begins

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



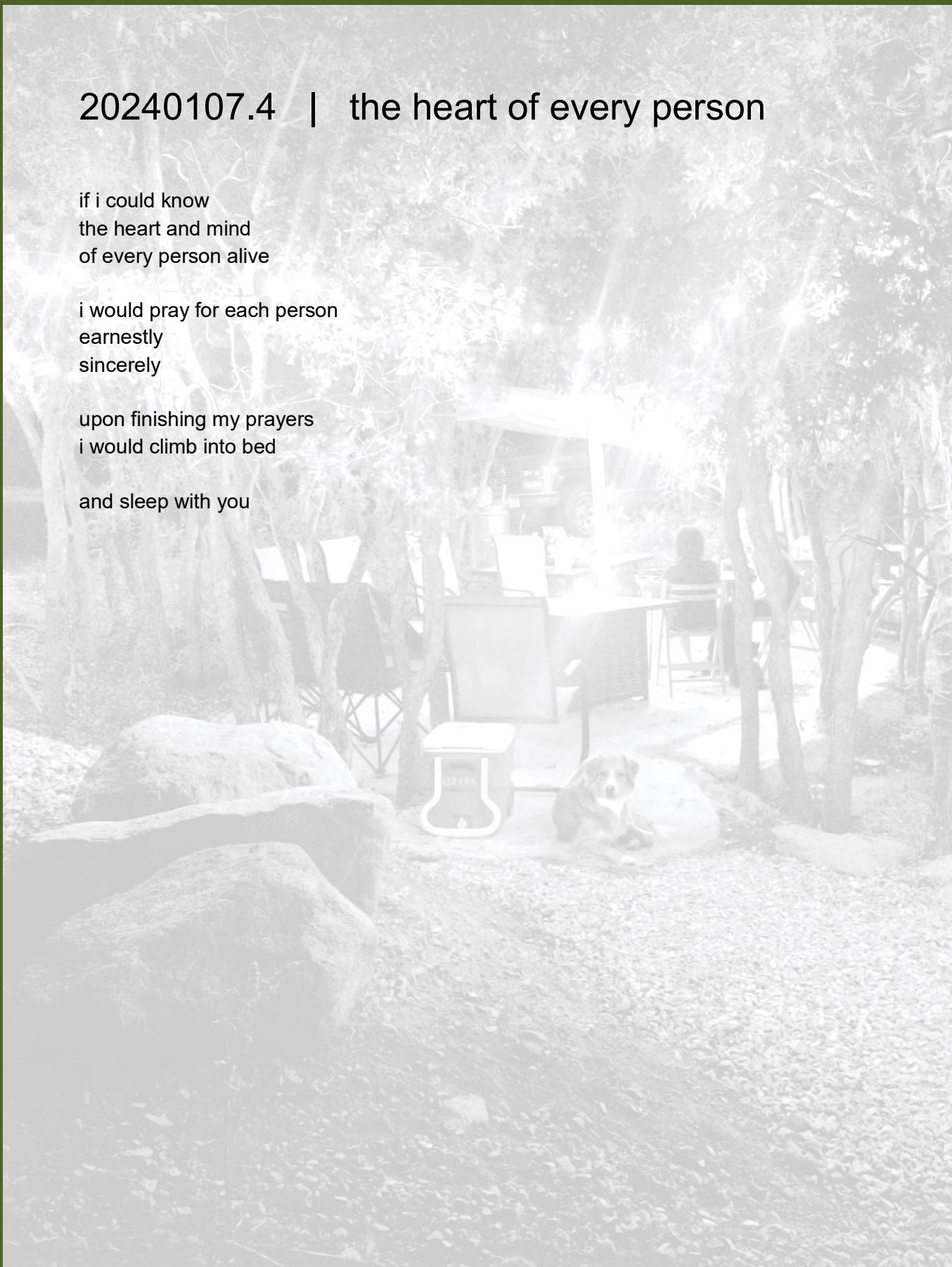
## 20240107.4 | the heart of every person

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 | transcendence

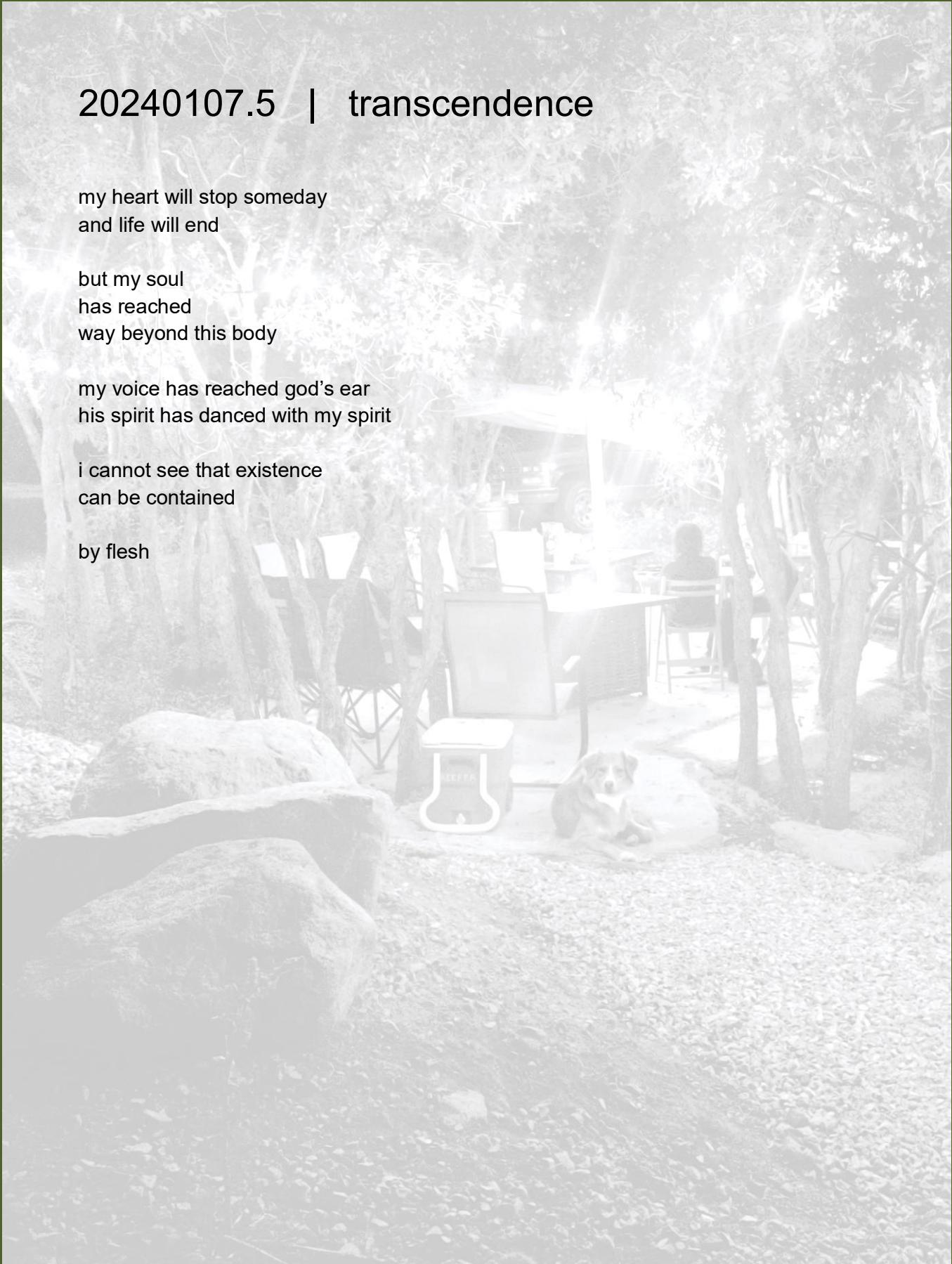
my heart will stop someday  
and life will end

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



## 20240114.1 | addition not subtraction

i've seen old people  
who were alone  
children moved  
no spouse – whatever reason

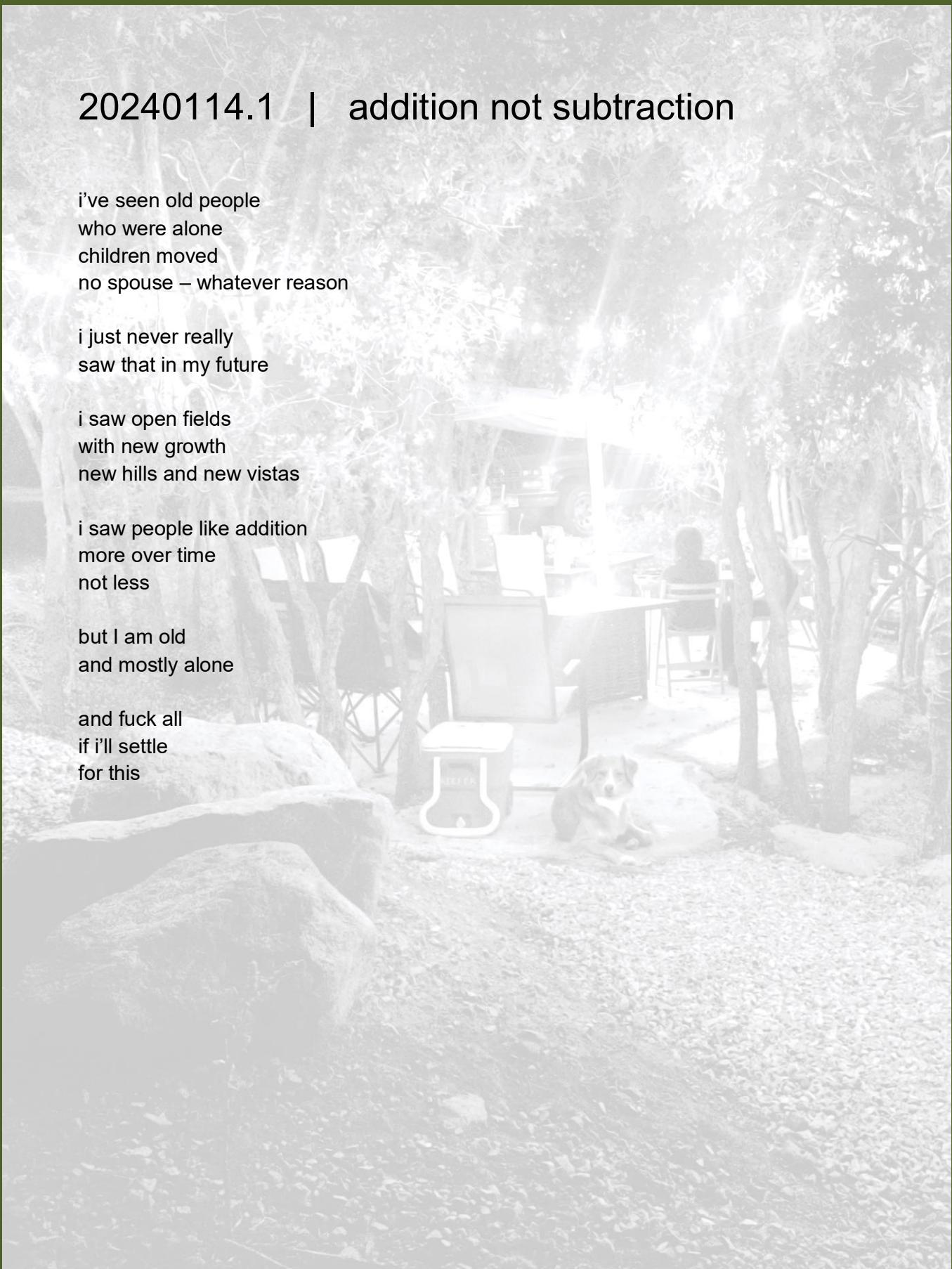
i just never really  
saw that in my future

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 | the real snow

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

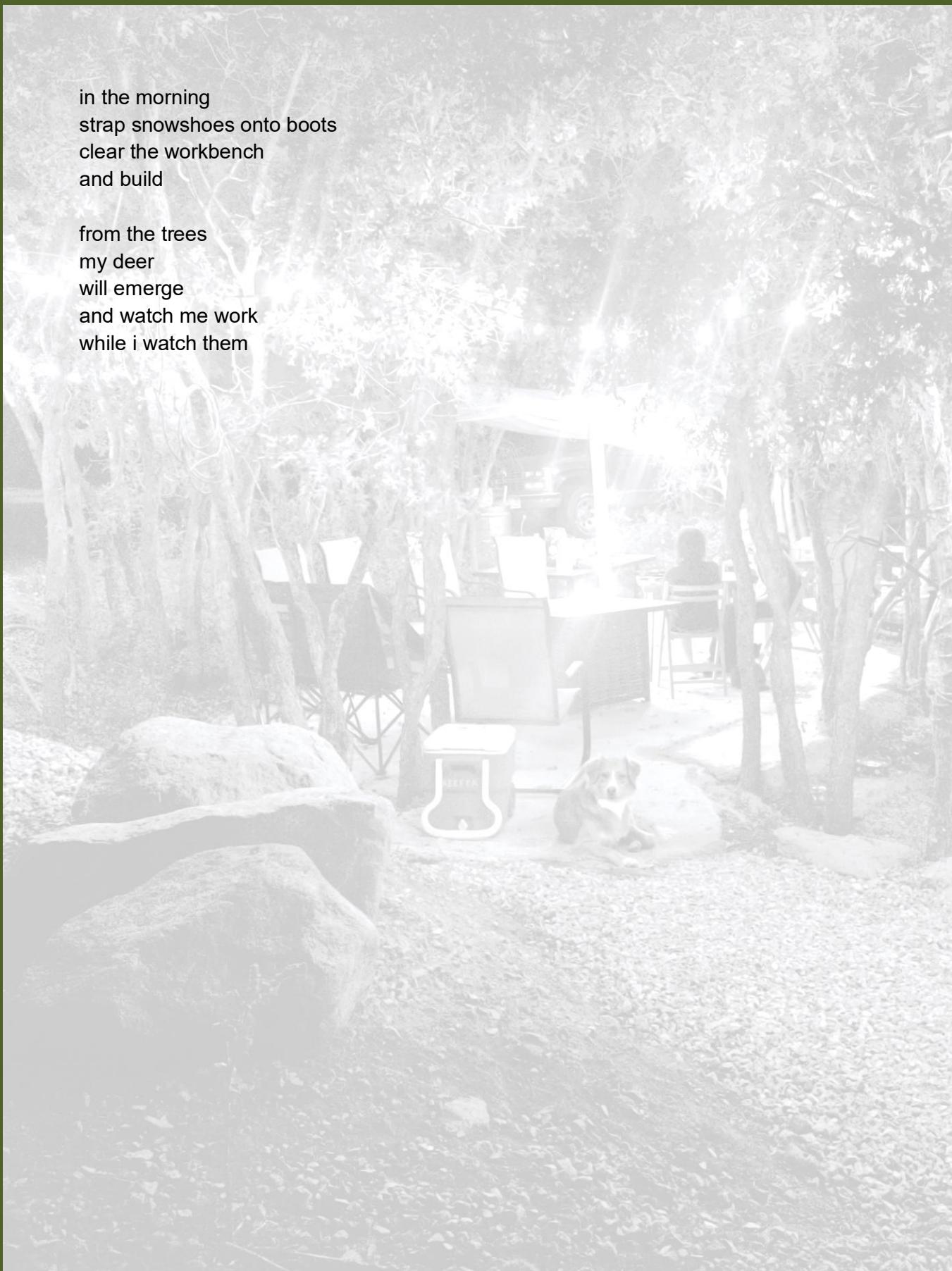
hand shovel the camper roof  
to prevent it from caving in

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, pray, sleep

in the morning  
strap snowshoes onto boots  
clear the workbench  
and build

from the trees  
my deer  
will emerge  
and watch me work  
while i watch them

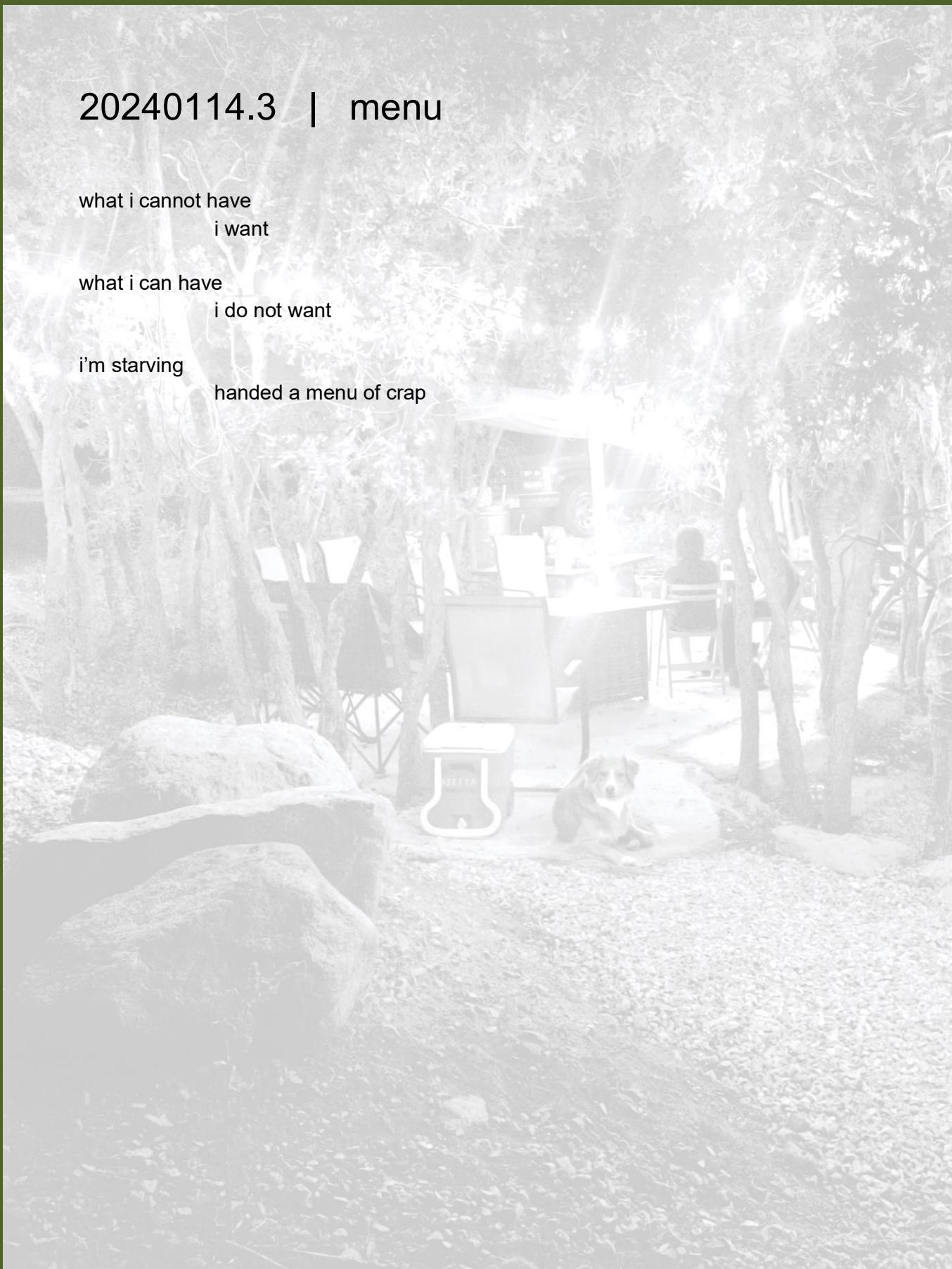


## 20240114.3 | menu

what i cannot have  
i want

what i can have  
i do not want

i'm starving  
handed a menu of crap



## 20240119.1 | minimal

54

by the time the gamble oaks have leaves

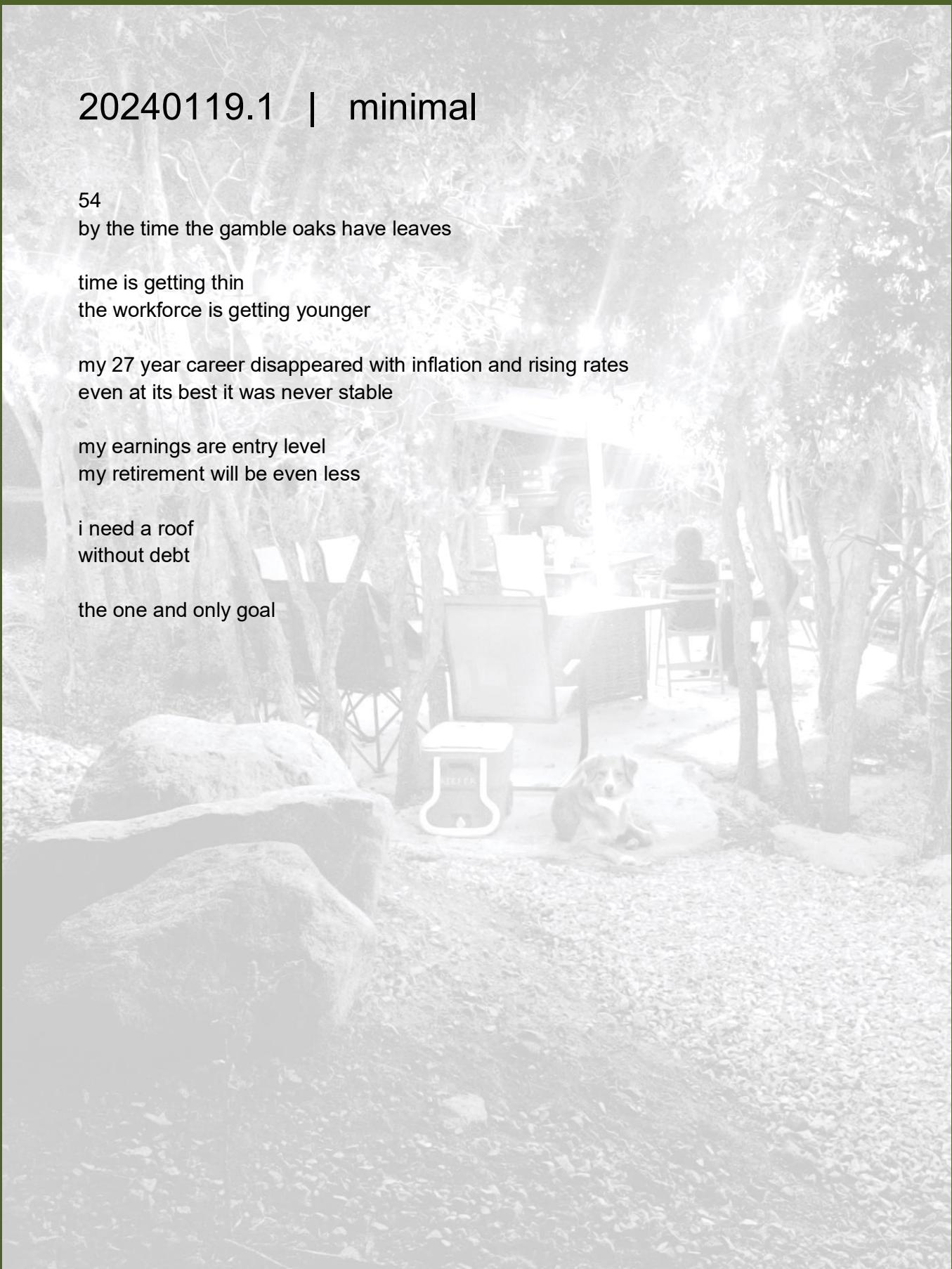
time is getting thin  
the workforce is getting younger

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



## 20240120.1 | embrace

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

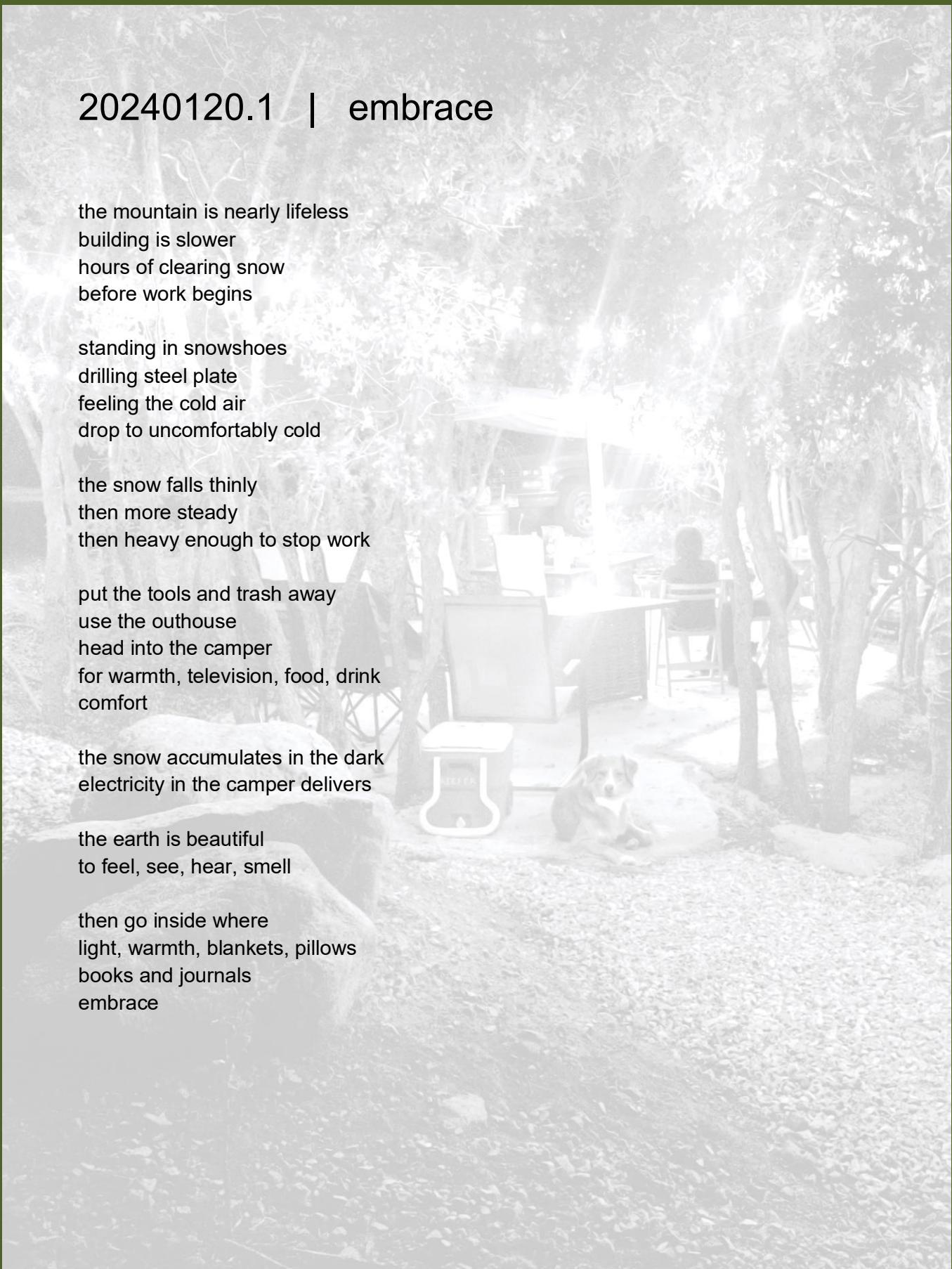
the snow falls thinly  
then more steady  
then heavy enough to stop work

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



## 20240127.1 | time

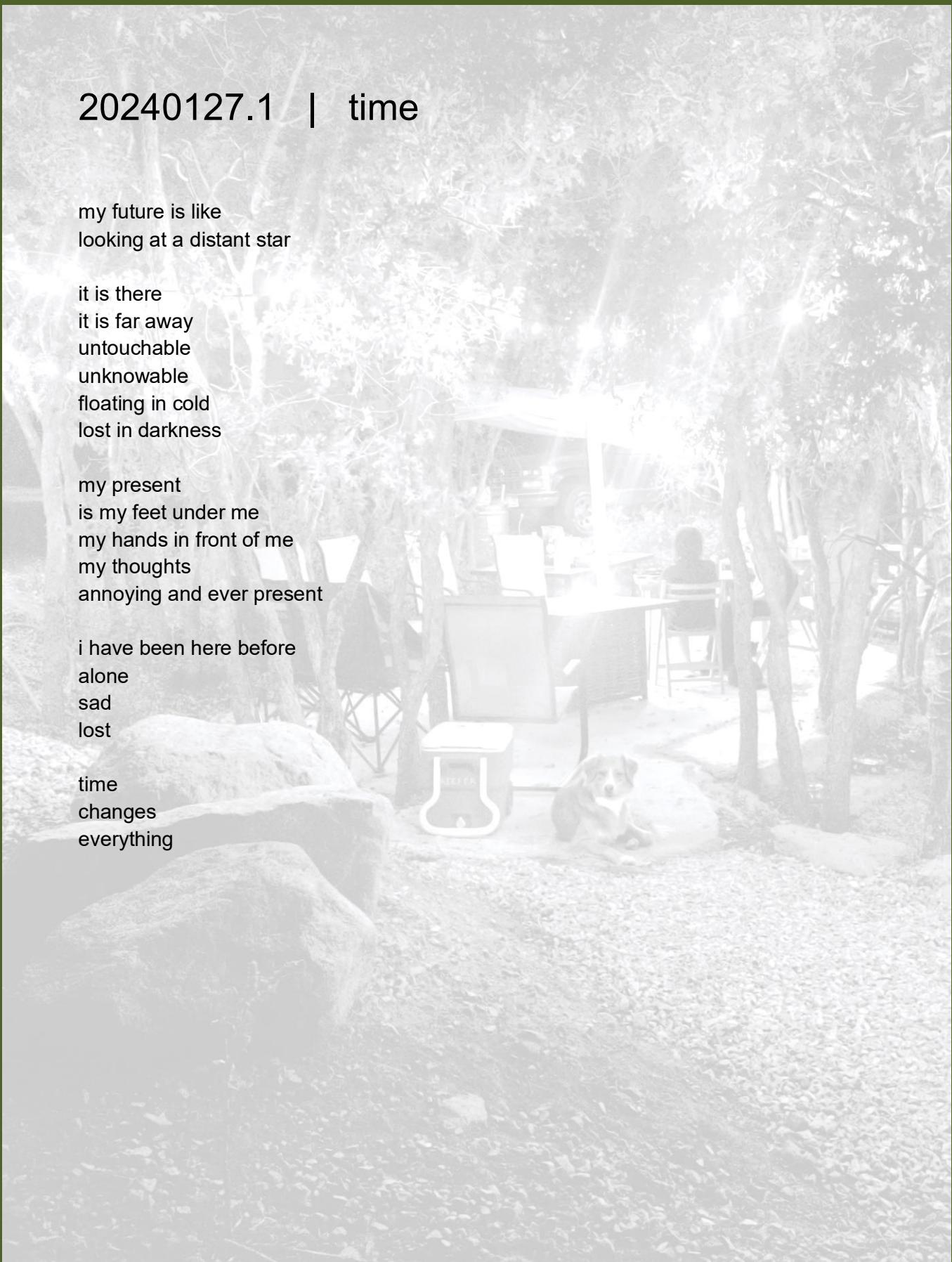
my future is like  
looking at a distant star

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

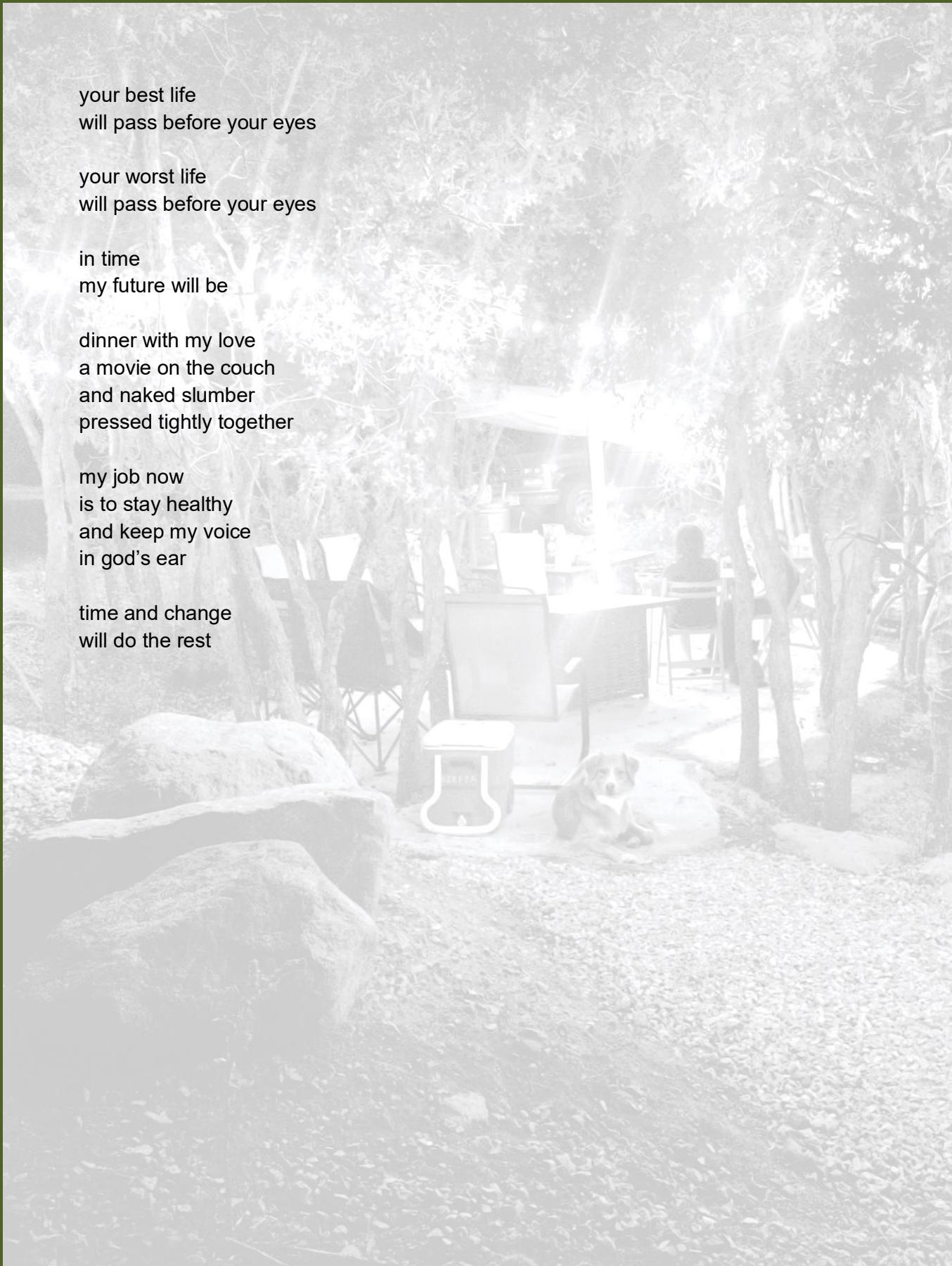
your worst life  
will pass before your eyes

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



## 20240130.1 | nature doesn't care

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

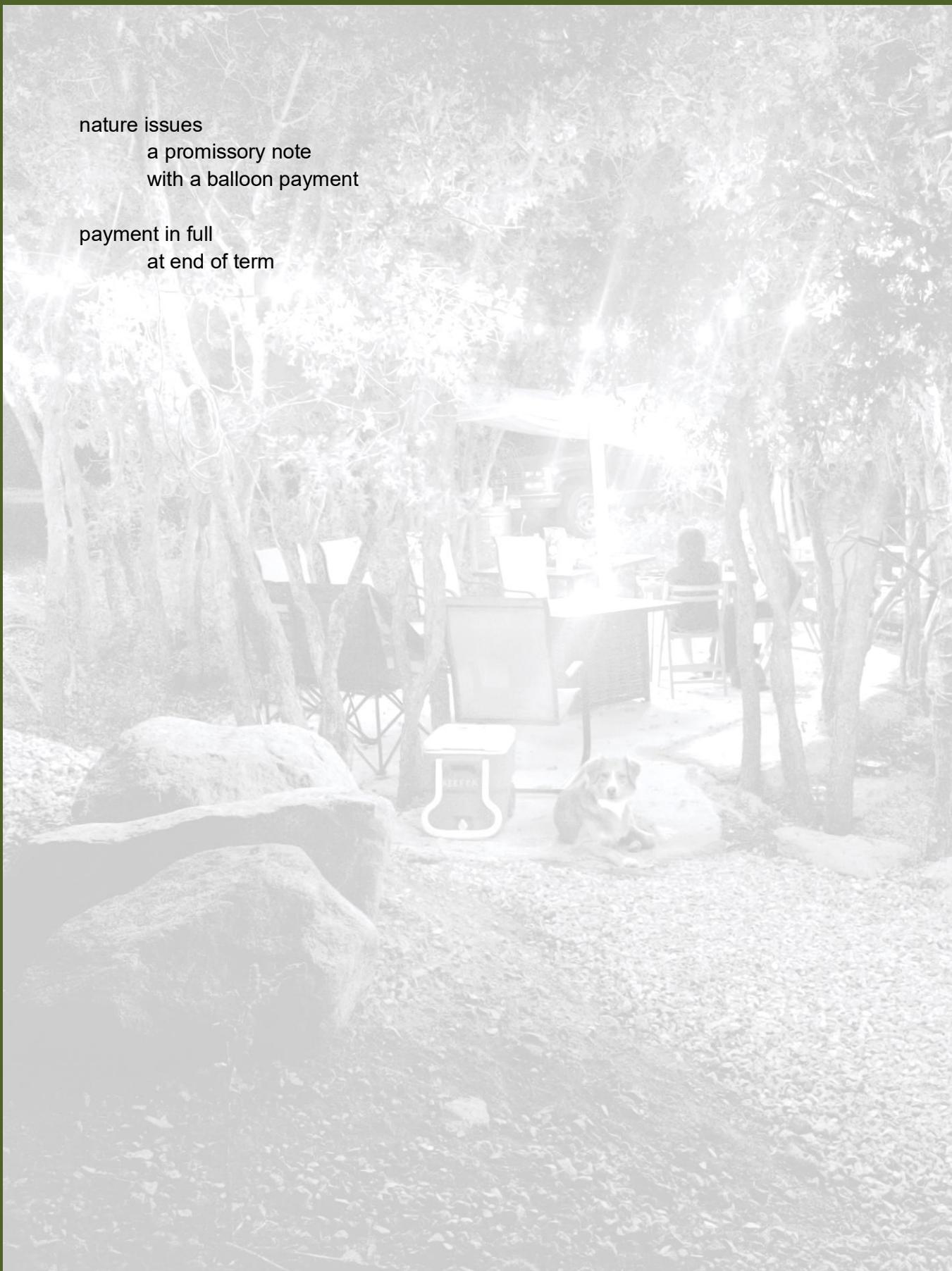
nature  
grows wild cells everywhere

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 | unwanted routine

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

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

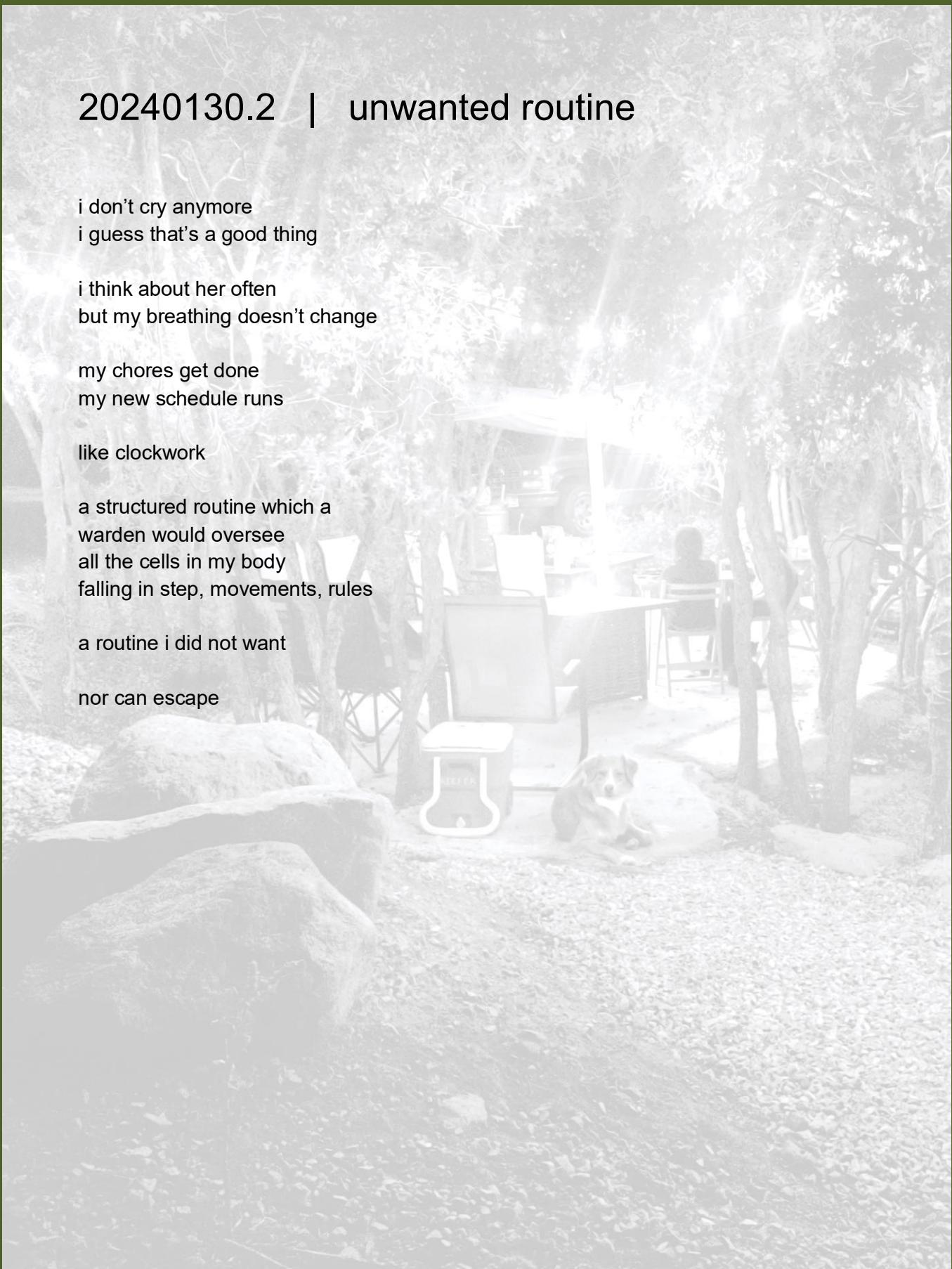
my chores get done  
my new schedule runs

like clockwork

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

a routine i did not want

nor can escape



## 20240207.1 | new people

do not throw your pearls before swine

serve those that acknowledge you

people that will not communicate with you

do not deserve

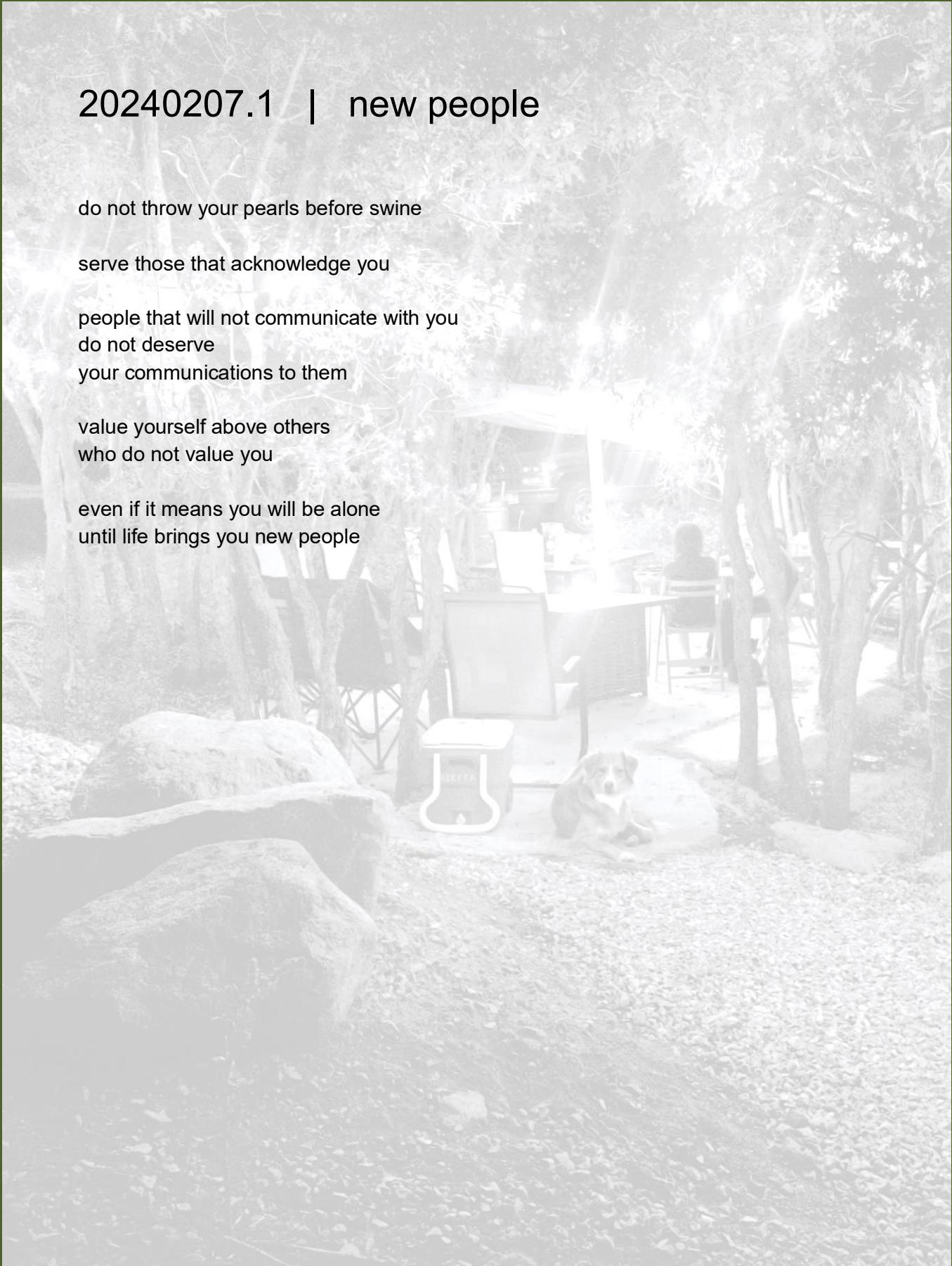
your communications to them

value yourself above others

who do not value you

even if it means you will be alone

until life brings you new people



## 20240214.1 | the rome you built

the funny thing about death  
is it comes slowly to most  
gives you time  
time to panic  
to bargain  
to regret  
to sell your wealth  
sell your soul  
for a cure

it might be shitty genetics  
but more than likely  
it's the result  
of a shitty life

too much food  
too ignorant to eat right  
too much comfort and couch time  
too many shows on screens consumed

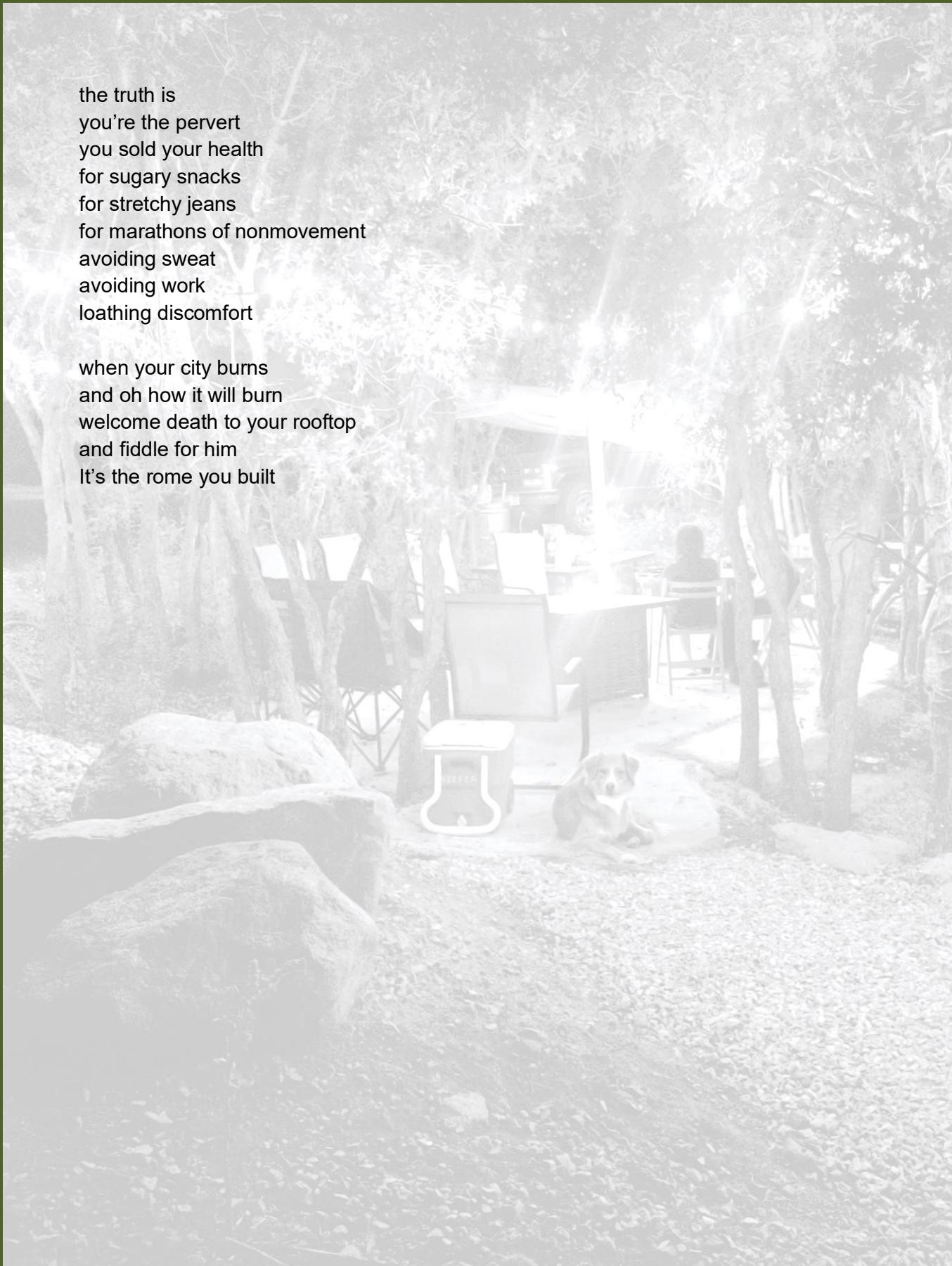
you kill yourself  
with poor choices  
every day  
then the disease and disability  
comes a knocking

the grim reaper  
stands voyeuring  
in your window  
hand down his pants

you feel violated  
like death is a criminal  
come to steal  
your virtue

the truth is  
you're the pervert  
you sold your health  
for sugary snacks  
for stretchy jeans  
for marathons of nonmovement  
avoiding sweat  
avoiding work  
loathing discomfort

when your city burns  
and oh how it will burn  
welcome death to your rooftop  
and fiddle for him  
It's the rome you built



## 20240225.1 | in my gethsemane

friends i had  
family i hurt  
choices i made  
lead me to  
my gethsemane

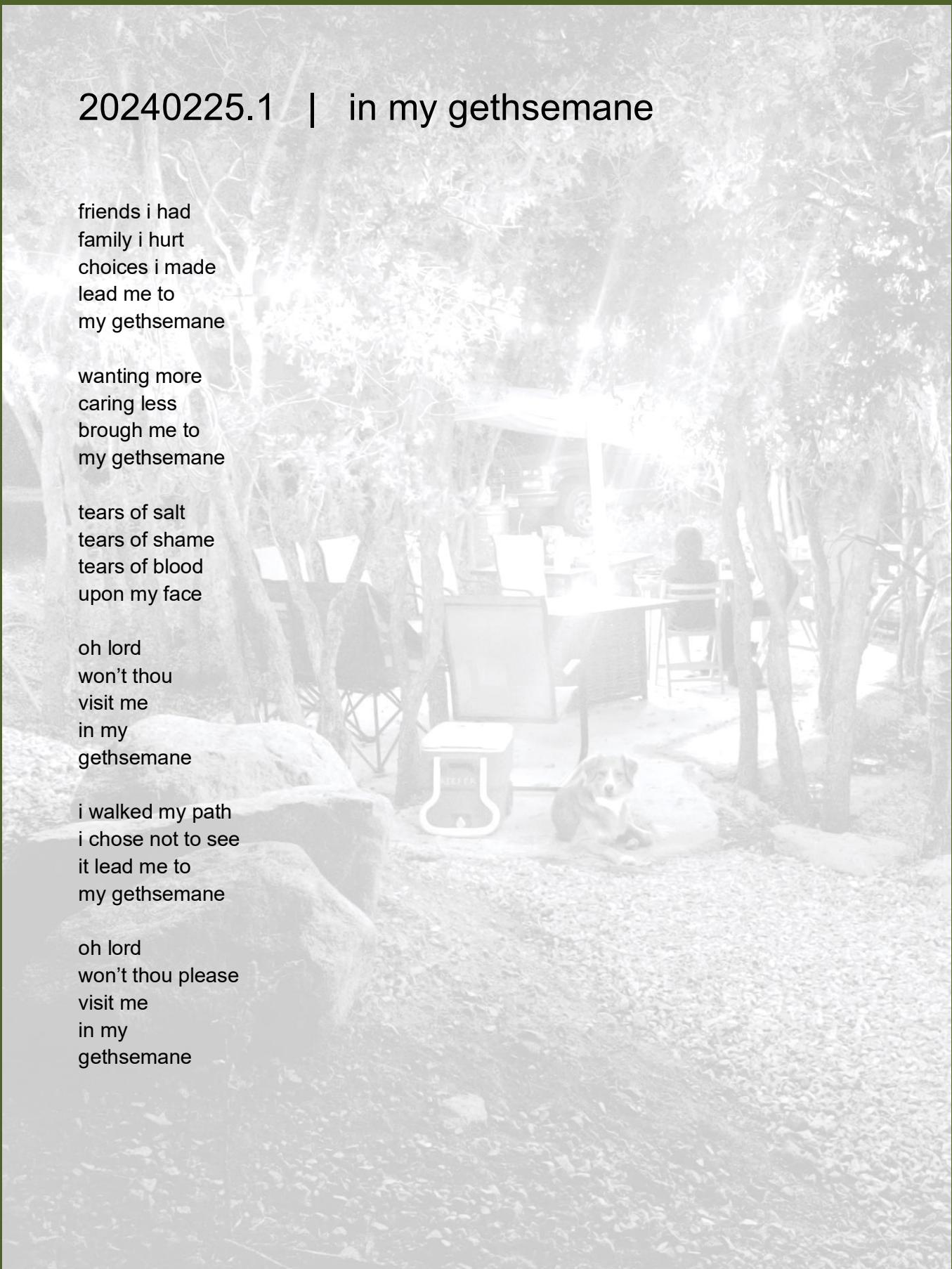
wanting more  
caring less  
brought me to  
my gethsemane

tears of salt  
tears of shame  
tears of blood  
upon my face

oh lord  
won't thou  
visit me  
in my  
gethsemane

i walked my path  
i chose not to see  
it lead me to  
my gethsemane

oh lord  
won't thou please  
visit me  
in my  
gethsemane



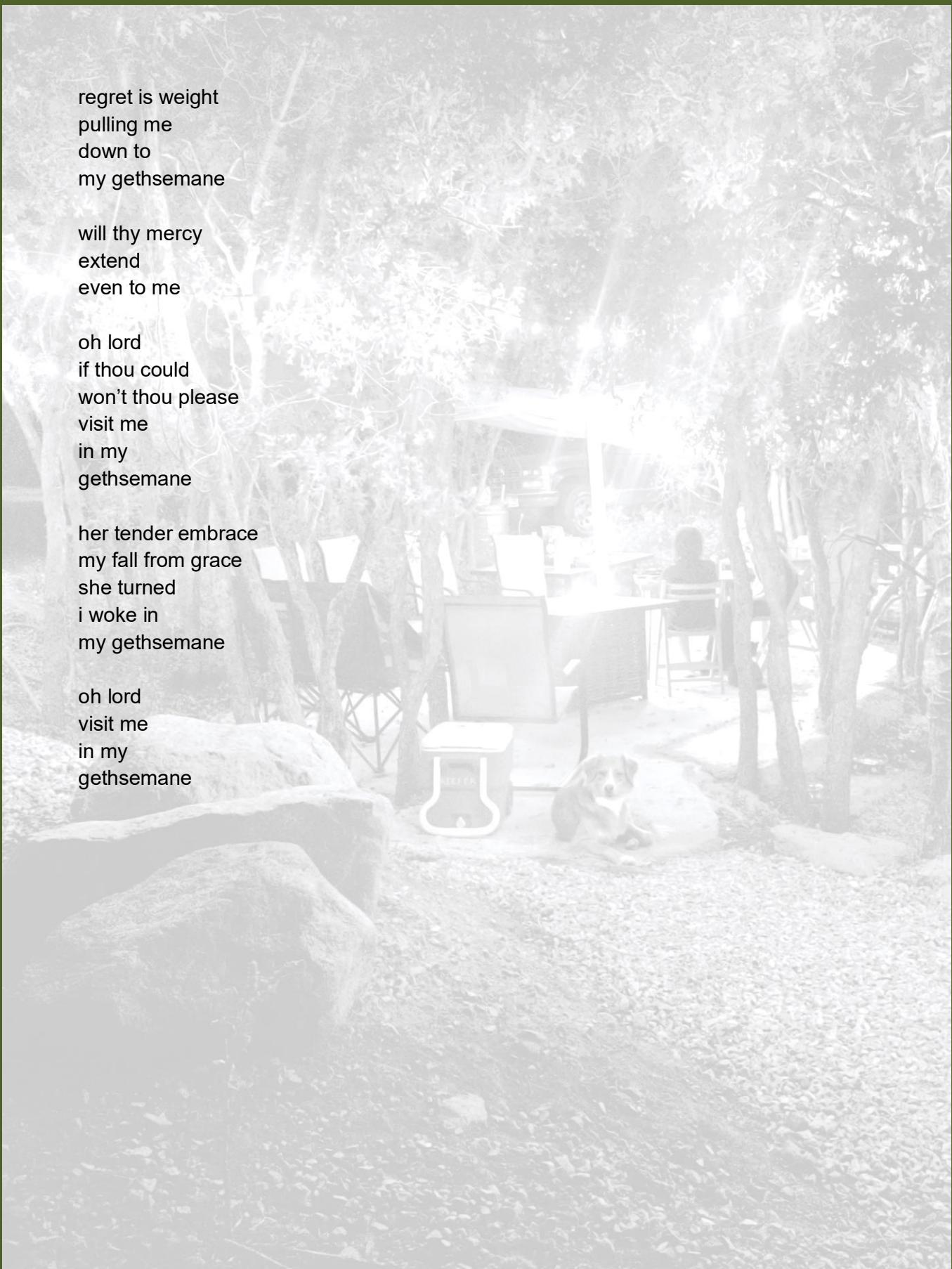
regret is weight  
pulling me  
down to  
my gethsemane

will thy mercy  
extend  
even to me

oh lord  
if thou could  
won't thou please  
visit me  
in my  
gethsemane

her tender embrace  
my fall from grace  
she turned  
i woke in  
my gethsemane

oh lord  
visit me  
in my  
gethsemane



## 2018-2024 | this is love ii

this is love  
not tidy  
or neat

this is your heart  
playing in  
the street

should i share what i feel  
should i share what i think  
will it float your heart  
will it make you sink

this is love  
playing in  
the street

a heart to give  
a heart to keep  
a risk to take  
a love to seek

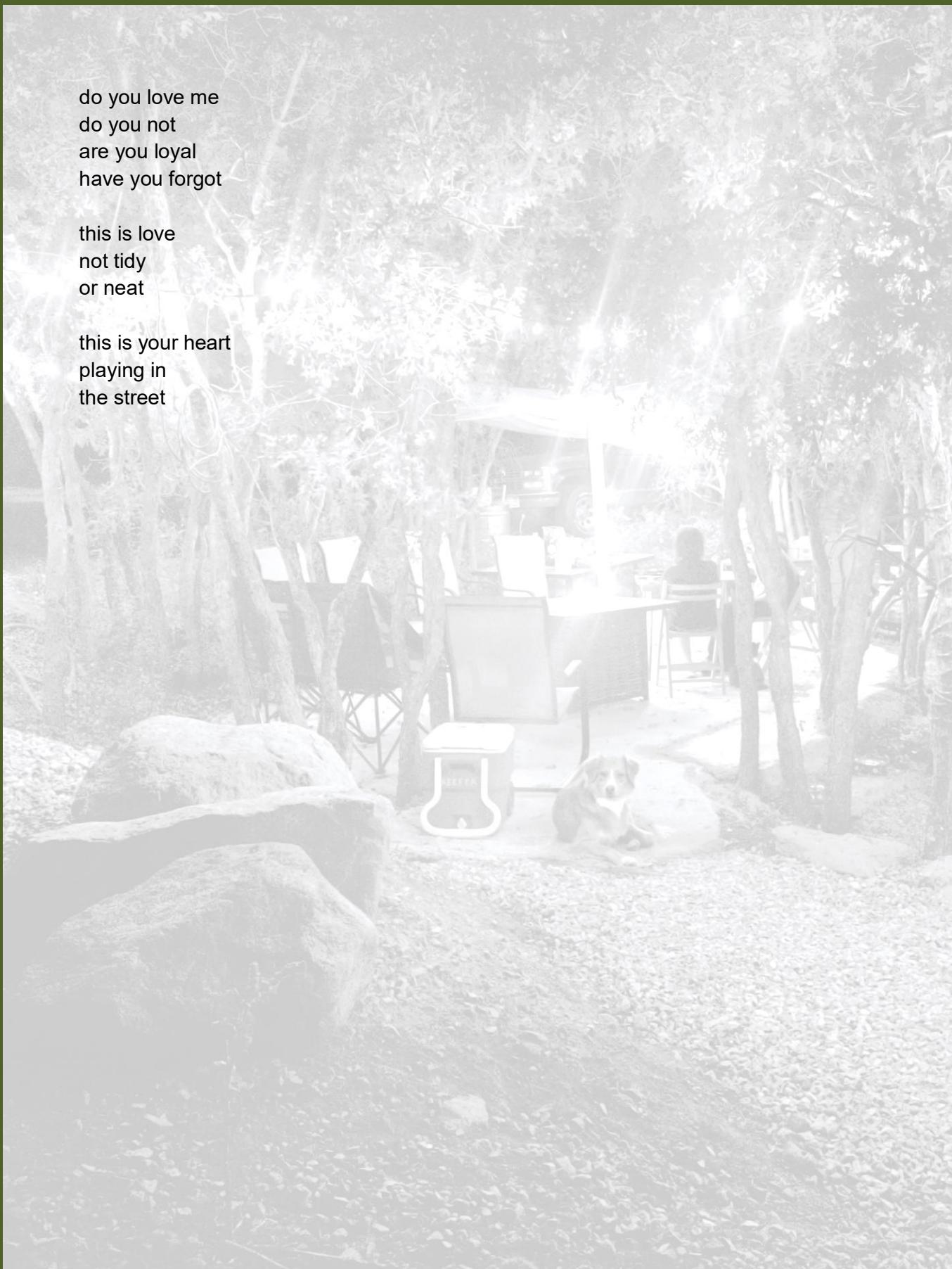
this is love  
not tidy  
or neat

this is your heart  
playing in  
the street

do you love me  
do you not  
are you loyal  
have you forgot

this is love  
not tidy  
or neat

this is your heart  
playing in  
the street



## 20240308.1 | she is a goddess

i have no doubt  
she is a goddess

born poor  
in arkansas

every  
trap  
and disadvantage  
in her path

and still she walked  
with clarity

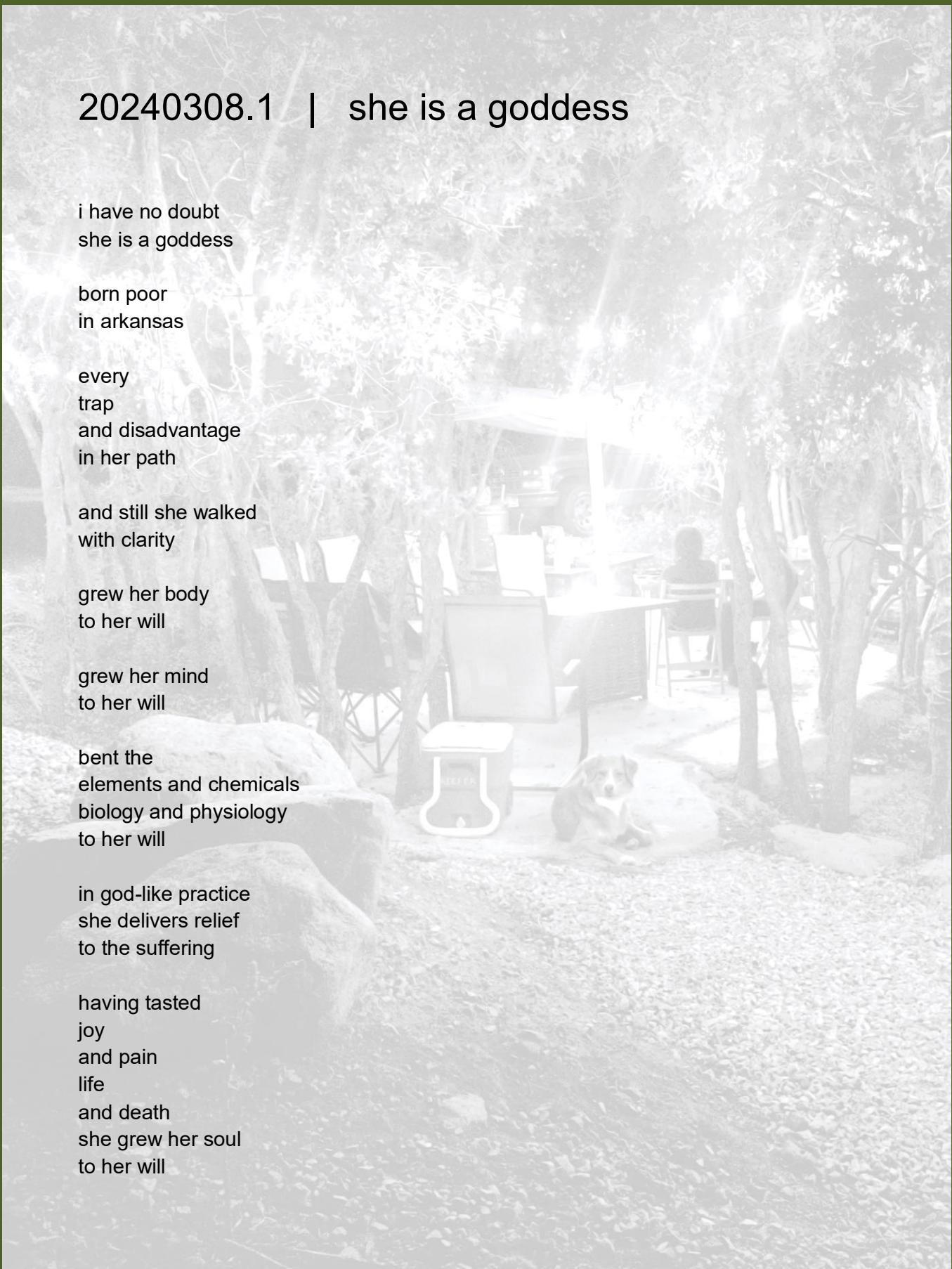
grew her body  
to her will

grew her mind  
to her will

bent the  
elements and chemicals  
biology and physiology  
to her will

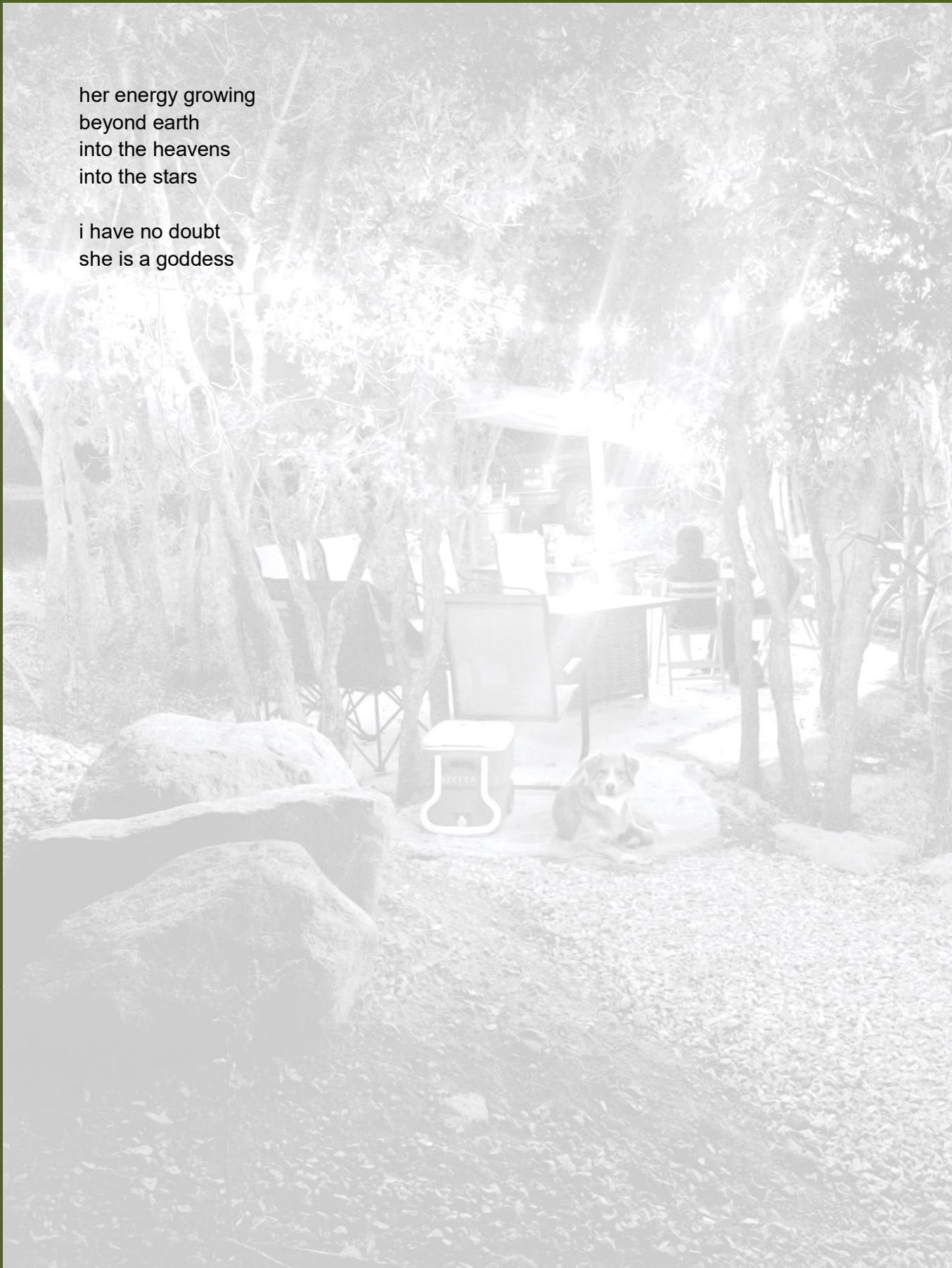
in god-like practice  
she delivers relief  
to the suffering

having tasted  
joy  
and pain  
life  
and death  
she grew her soul  
to her will



her energy growing  
beyond earth  
into the heavens  
into the stars

i have no doubt  
she is a goddess



## 20240309.1 | winter is slipping

winter is slipping  
sun has made the snow hard

moose and deer  
fall through the crust

the lighter animals  
with bigger paws  
walk the surface  
and leave footprints

raccoon around the outhouse  
mice around the bird feeder  
magpie here and there

moose diagonal  
traverse the property  
footprints bigger  
and spread wider  
than any man  
and leaving a pile of  
walnut-size scat

cat prints  
like a housecat  
but as big as a woman's fist  
and sunk heavy  
in the snow's surface

mountain lion  
from the woods  
visiting the meadow's hot spring  
then up and back into the woods



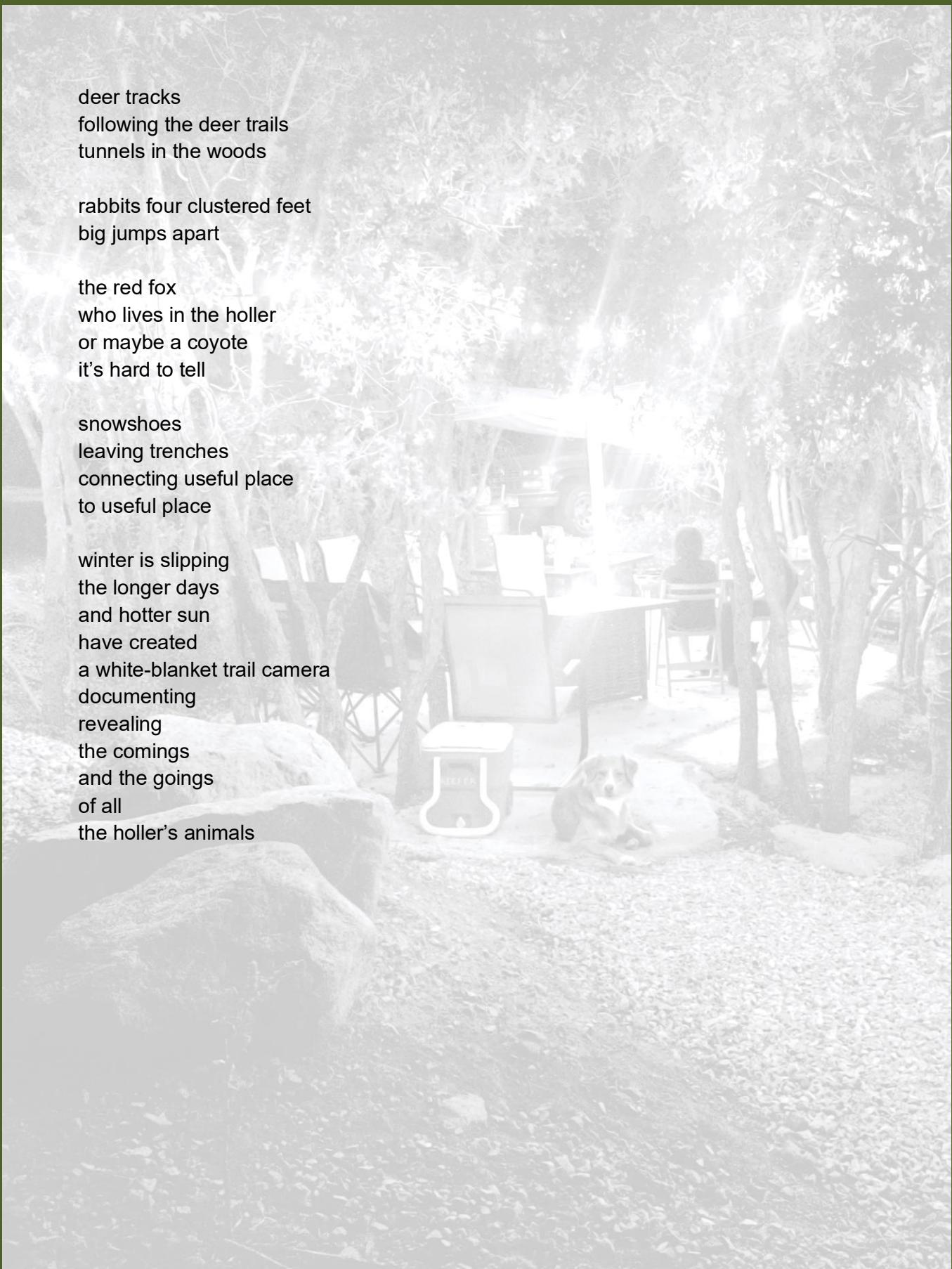
deer tracks  
following the deer trails  
tunnels in the woods

rabbits four clustered feet  
big jumps apart

the red fox  
who lives in the holler  
or maybe a coyote  
it's hard to tell

snowshoes  
leaving trenches  
connecting useful place  
to useful place

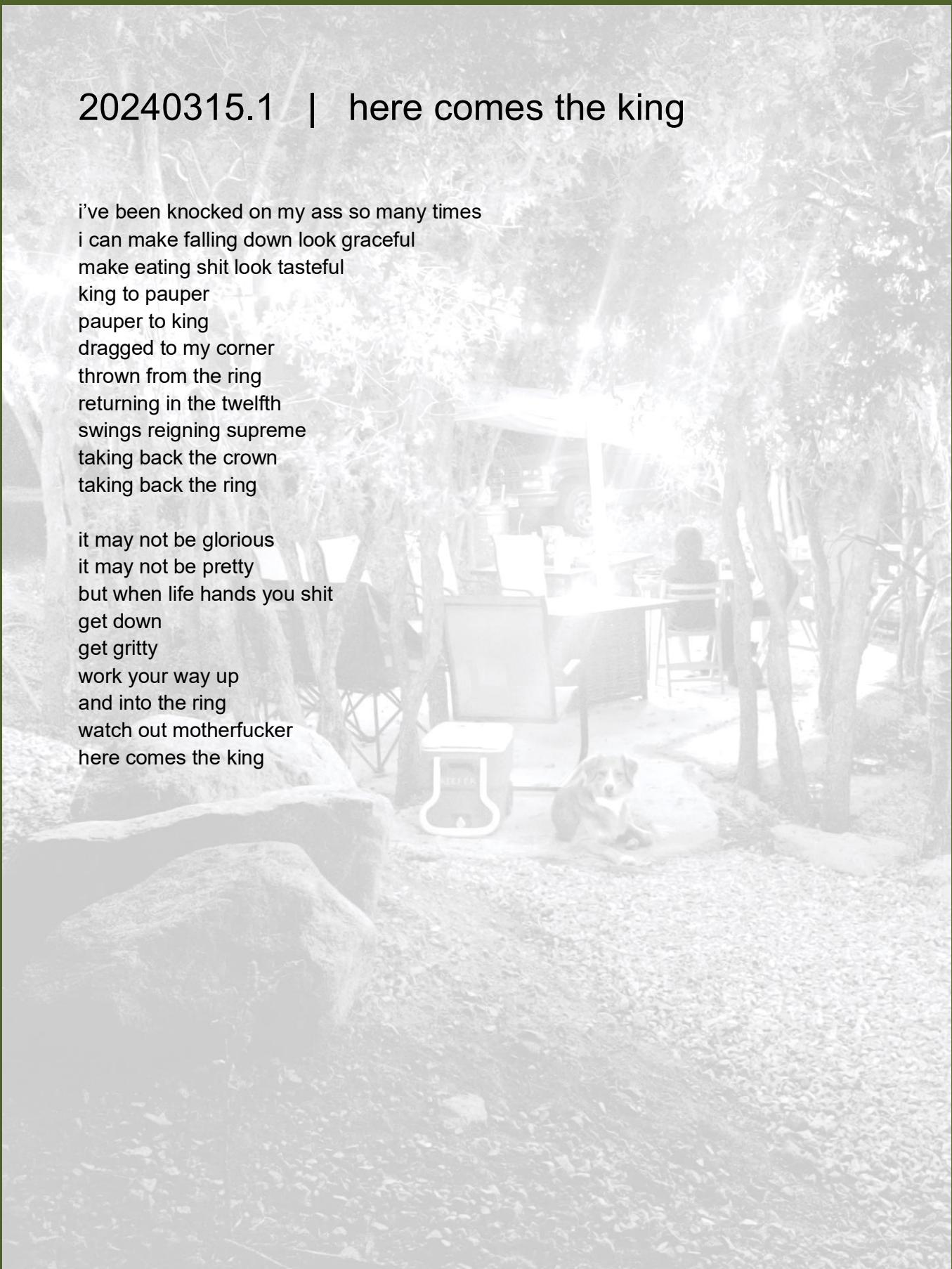
winter is slipping  
the longer days  
and hotter sun  
have created  
a white-blanket trail camera  
documenting  
revealing  
the comings  
and the goings  
of all  
the holler's animals



## 20240315.1 | here comes the king

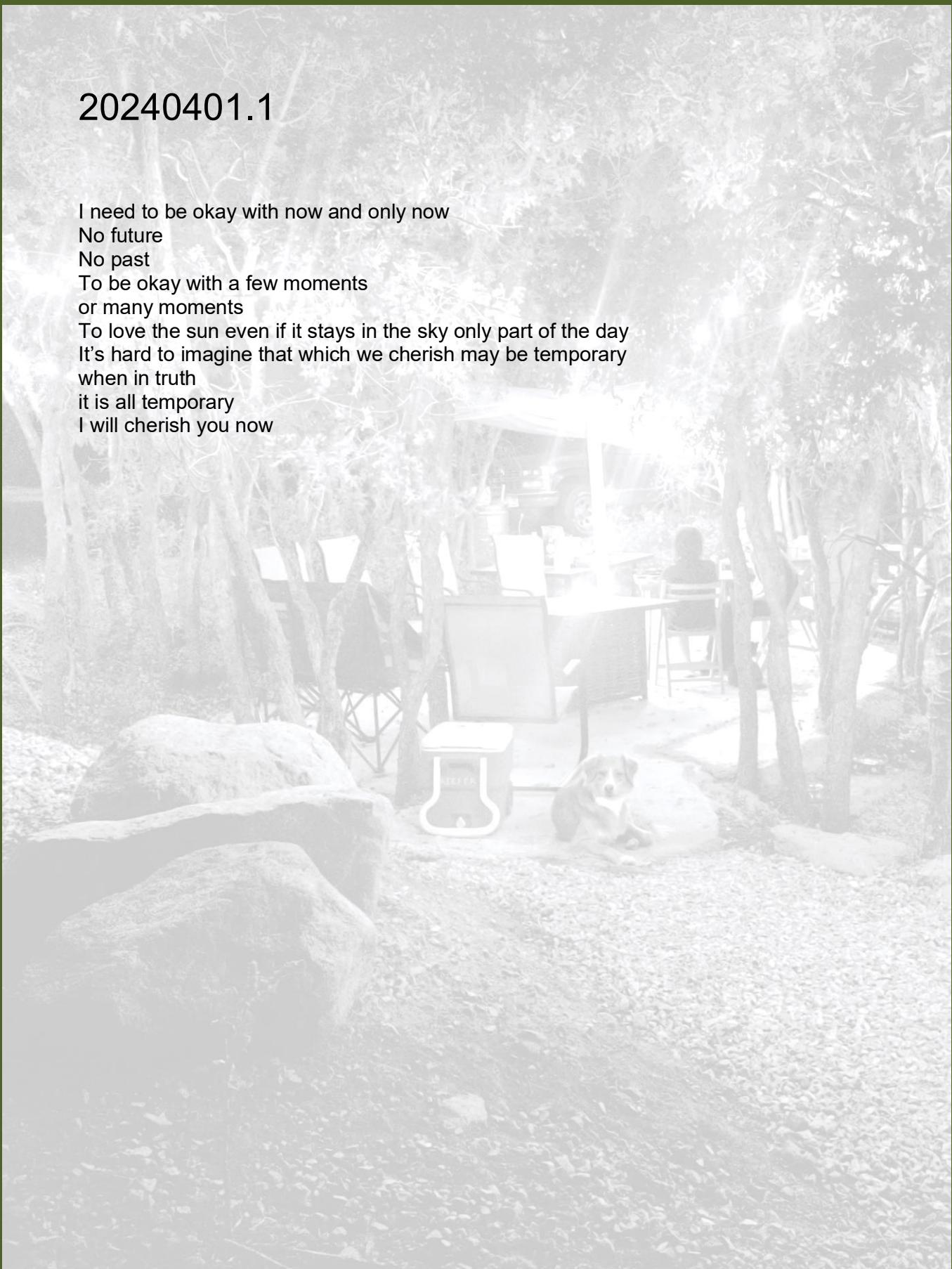
i've been knocked on my ass so many times  
i can make falling down look graceful  
make eating shit look tasteful  
king to pauper  
pauper to king  
dragged to my corner  
thrown from the ring  
returning in the twelfth  
swings reigning supreme  
taking back the crown  
taking back the ring

it may not be glorious  
it may not be pretty  
but when life hands you shit  
get down  
get gritty  
work your way up  
and into the ring  
watch out motherfucker  
here comes the king



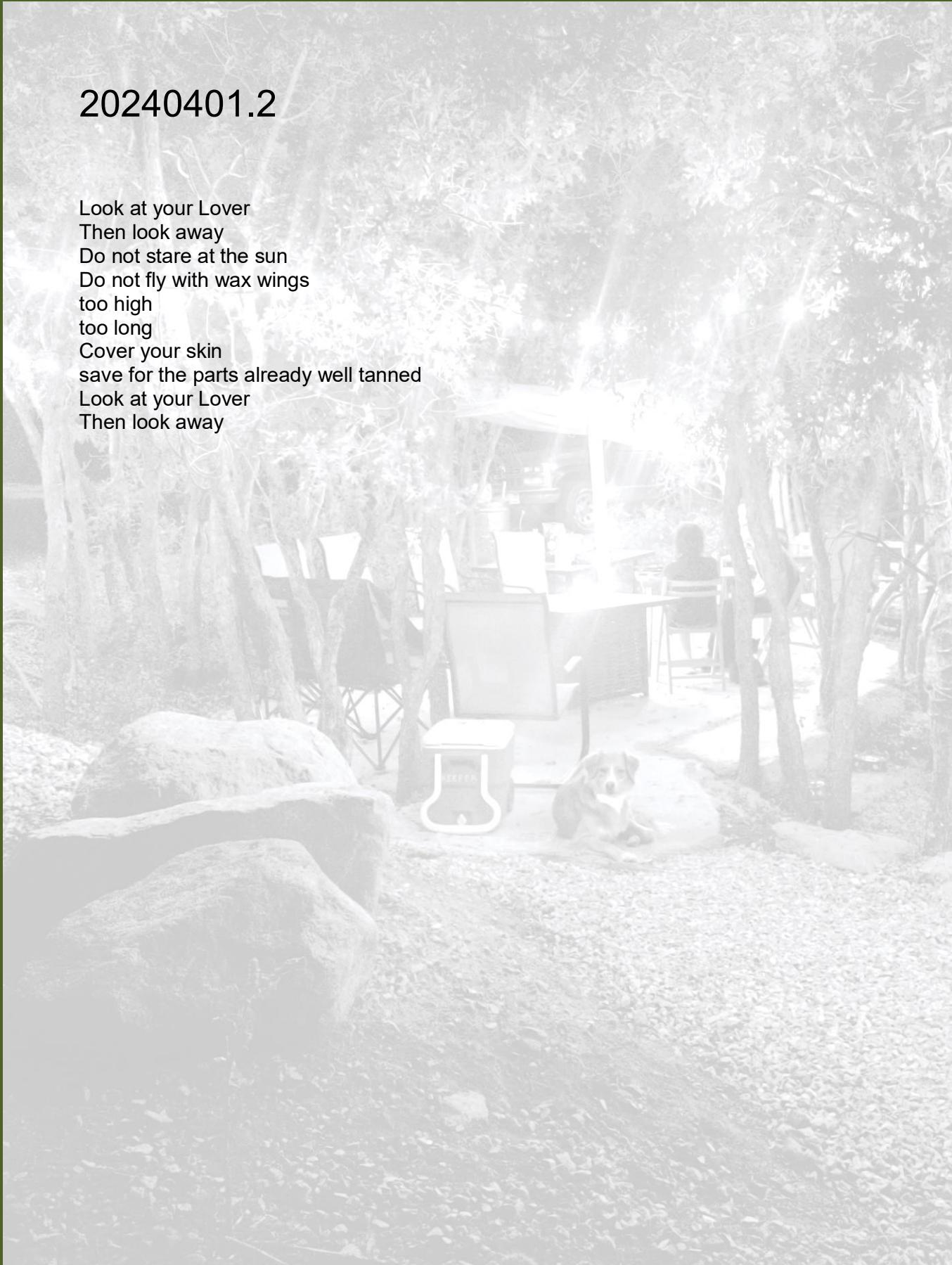
20240401.1

I need to be okay with now and only now  
No future  
No past  
To be okay with a few moments  
or many moments  
To love the sun even if it stays in the sky only part of the day  
It's hard to imagine that which we cherish may be temporary  
when in truth  
it is all temporary  
I will cherish you now



20240401.2

Look at your Lover  
Then look away  
Do not stare at the sun  
Do not fly with wax wings  
too high  
too long  
Cover your skin  
save for the parts already well tanned  
Look at your Lover  
Then look away



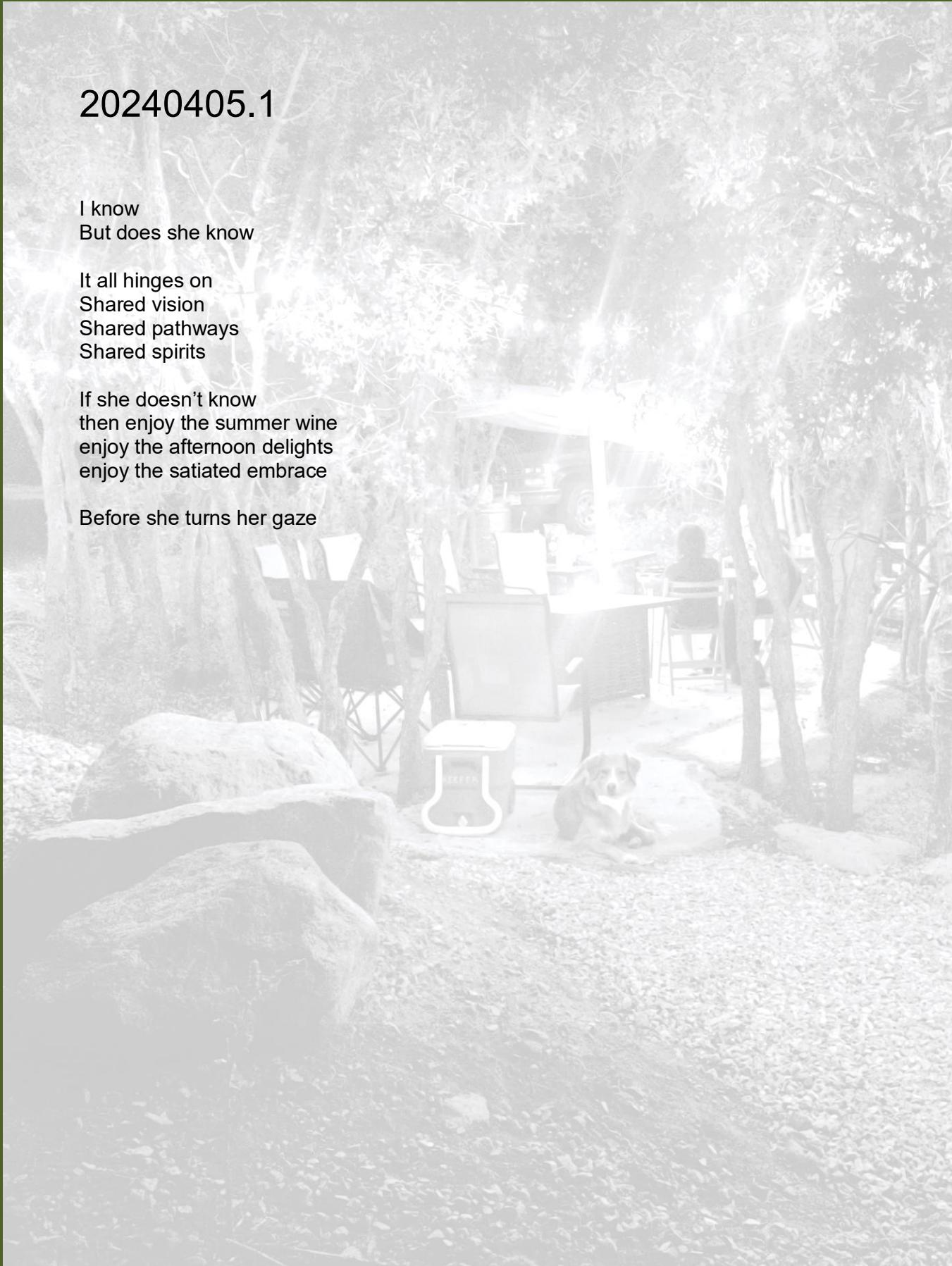
20240405.1

I know  
But does she know

It all hinges on  
Shared vision  
Shared pathways  
Shared spirits

If she doesn't know  
then enjoy the summer wine  
enjoy the afternoon delights  
enjoy the satiated embrace

Before she turns her gaze



20240407.1

Make a hole in my heart  
enter, love, stay

Grow with the daylight  
Grow in the nightlight  
Grow every loving word  
Grow every passionate kiss  
Grow every tender touch  
Grow every whisper  
Grow every smile

Grow your place  
in my heart

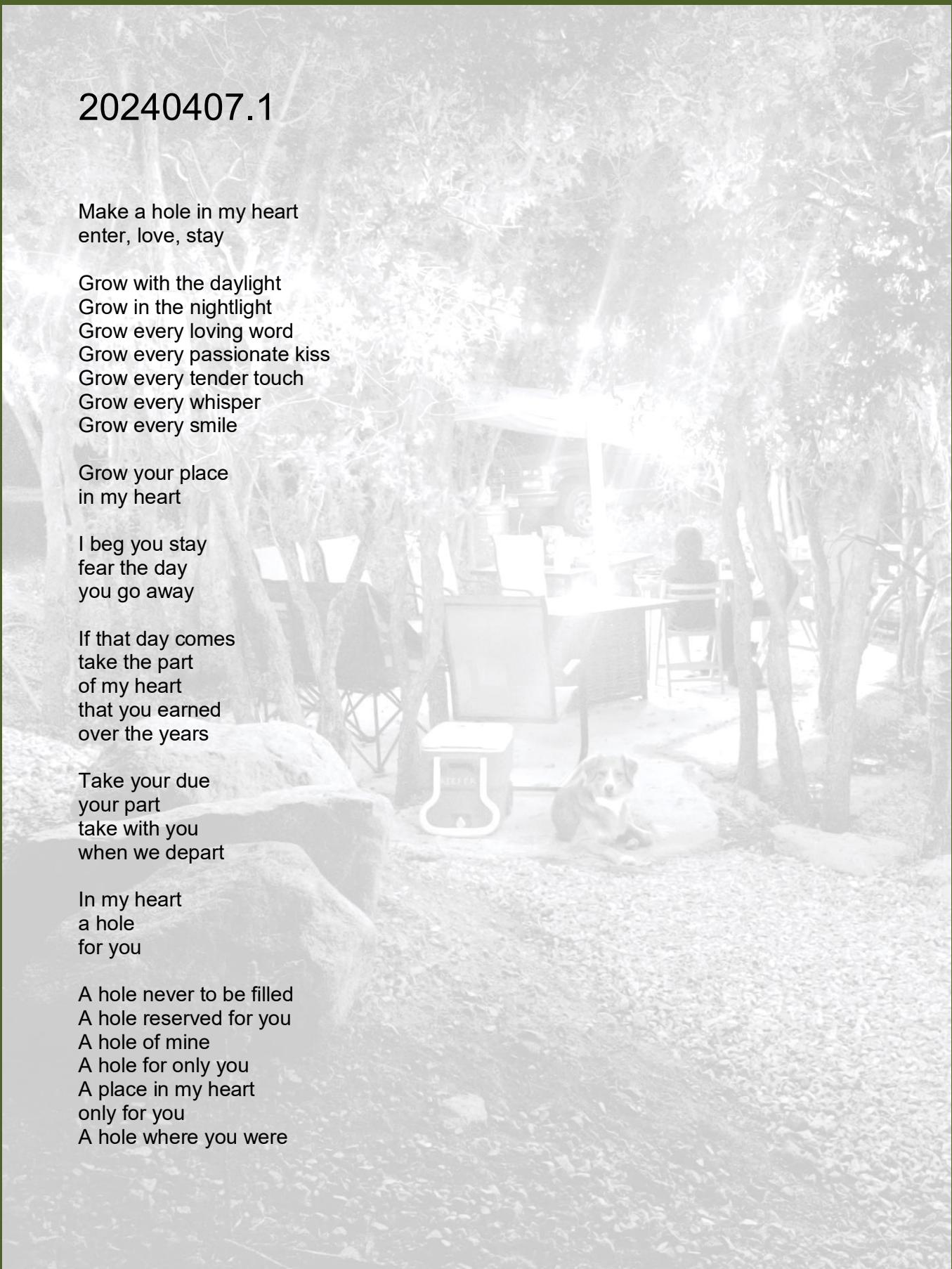
I beg you stay  
fear the day  
you go away

If that day comes  
take the part  
of my heart  
that you earned  
over the years

Take your due  
your part  
take with you  
when we depart

In my heart  
a hole  
for you

A hole never to be filled  
A hole reserved for you  
A hole of mine  
A hole for only you  
A place in my heart  
only for you  
A hole where you were





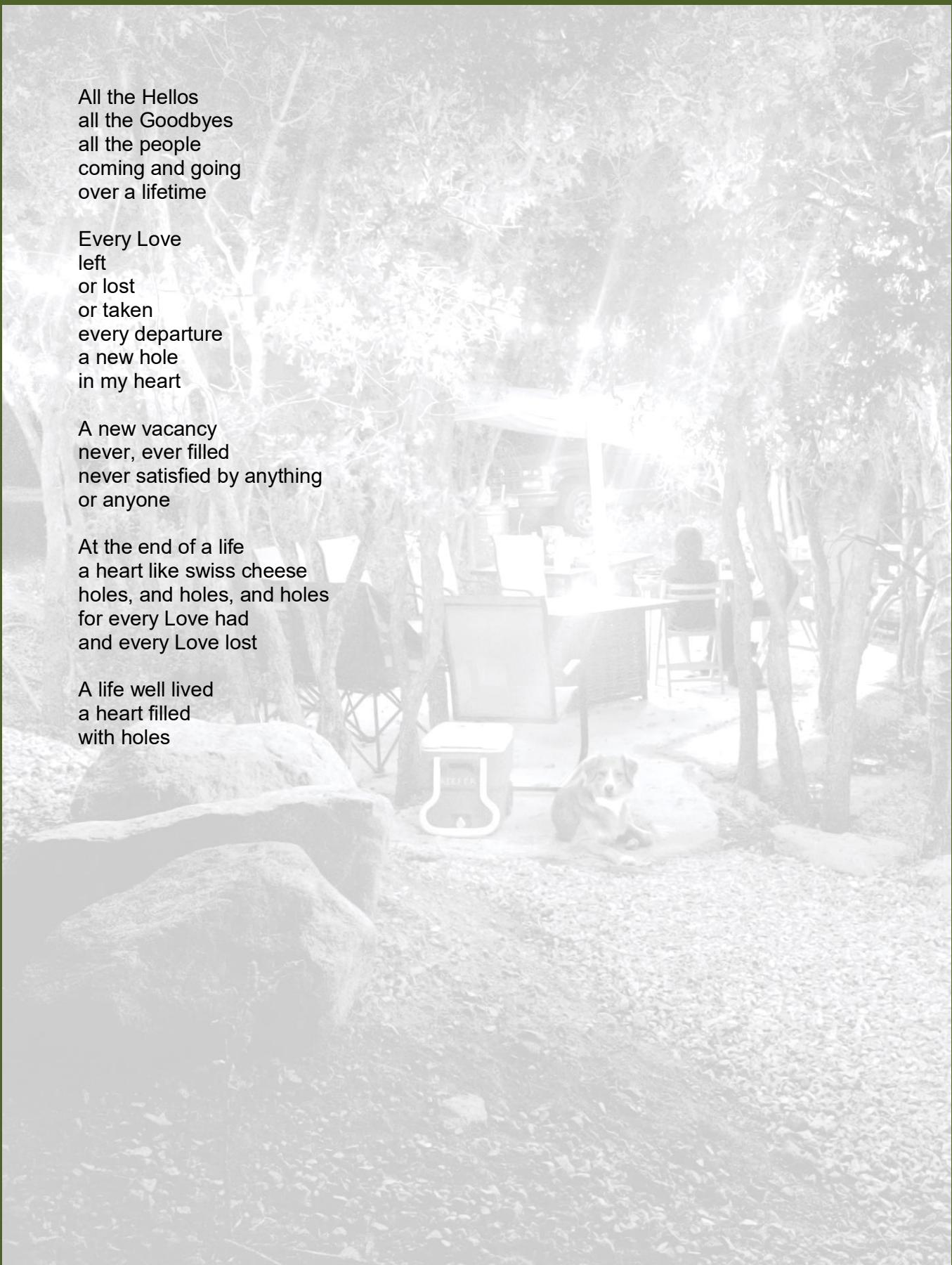
All the Hellos  
all the Goodbyes  
all the people  
coming and going  
over a lifetime

Every Love  
left  
or lost  
or taken  
every departure  
a new hole  
in my heart

A new vacancy  
never, ever filled  
never satisfied by anything  
or anyone

At the end of a life  
a heart like swiss cheese  
holes, and holes, and holes  
for every Love had  
and every Love lost

A life well lived  
a heart filled  
with holes



## 20240413.1

The moment I was born  
light departed  
one septillion stars

Swaddled and cradled  
when light from the Sun  
reached the hospital roof  
eight minutes later

Silver cap guns  
pleather vest  
tin badge  
cowboy hat  
playing in the Millcreek yard  
light from Proxima Centauri  
reaches my four-year-old cheeks

Procyon's light arrived  
the evening I first held  
my naked lover

Gliese 581's light dimly shone  
the night we parted

Chara appeared  
during college graduation

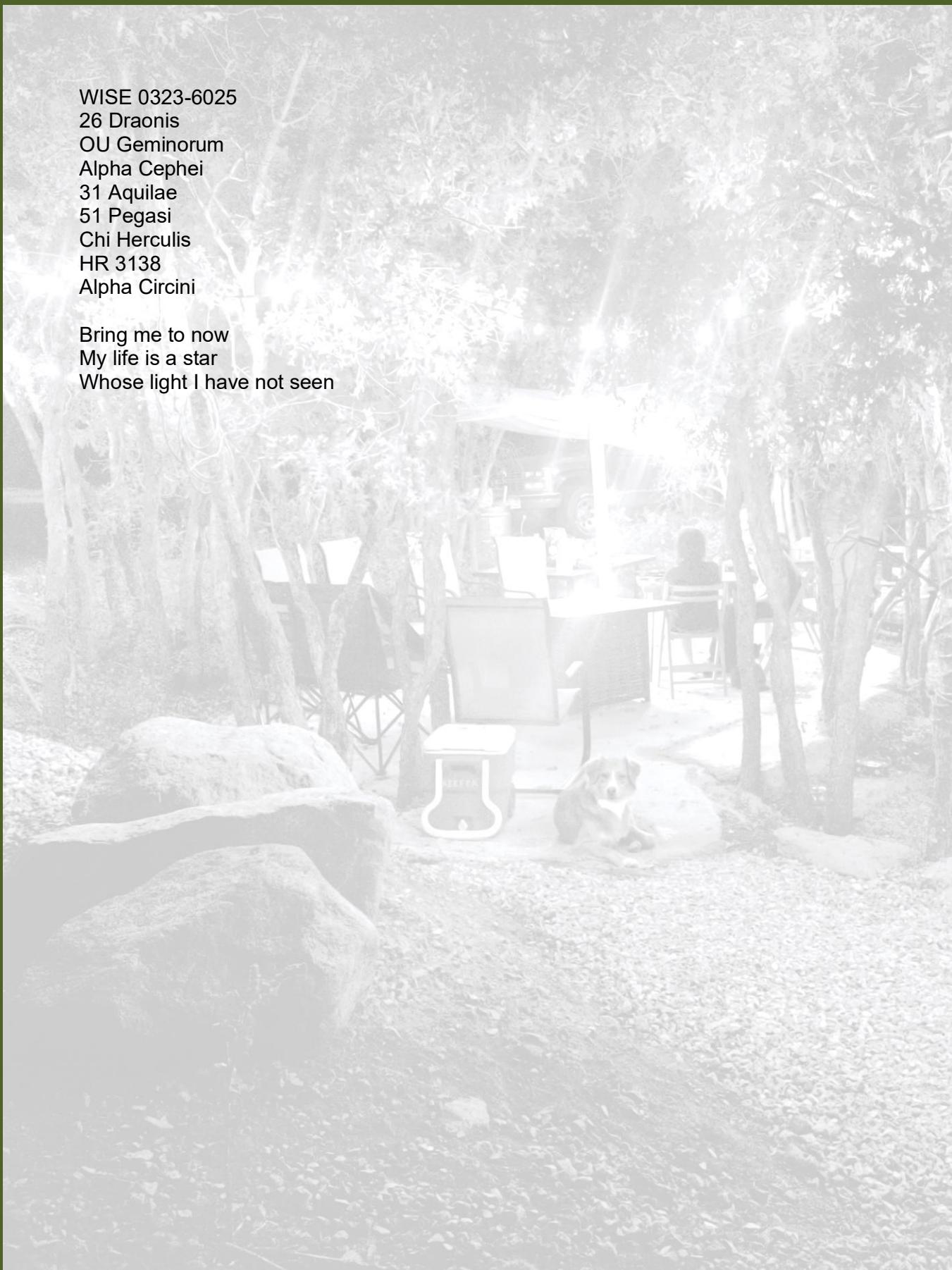
Earendel followed me  
across the Pennsylvania farmlands

Gamma Pavonis twinkled  
on the mother of my children  
Wolf 1069  
GJ 436  
AT Microscopii  
Arcturus  
arrived with my children  
as they were swaddled and cradled

Alhaud  
saw the ending of the family

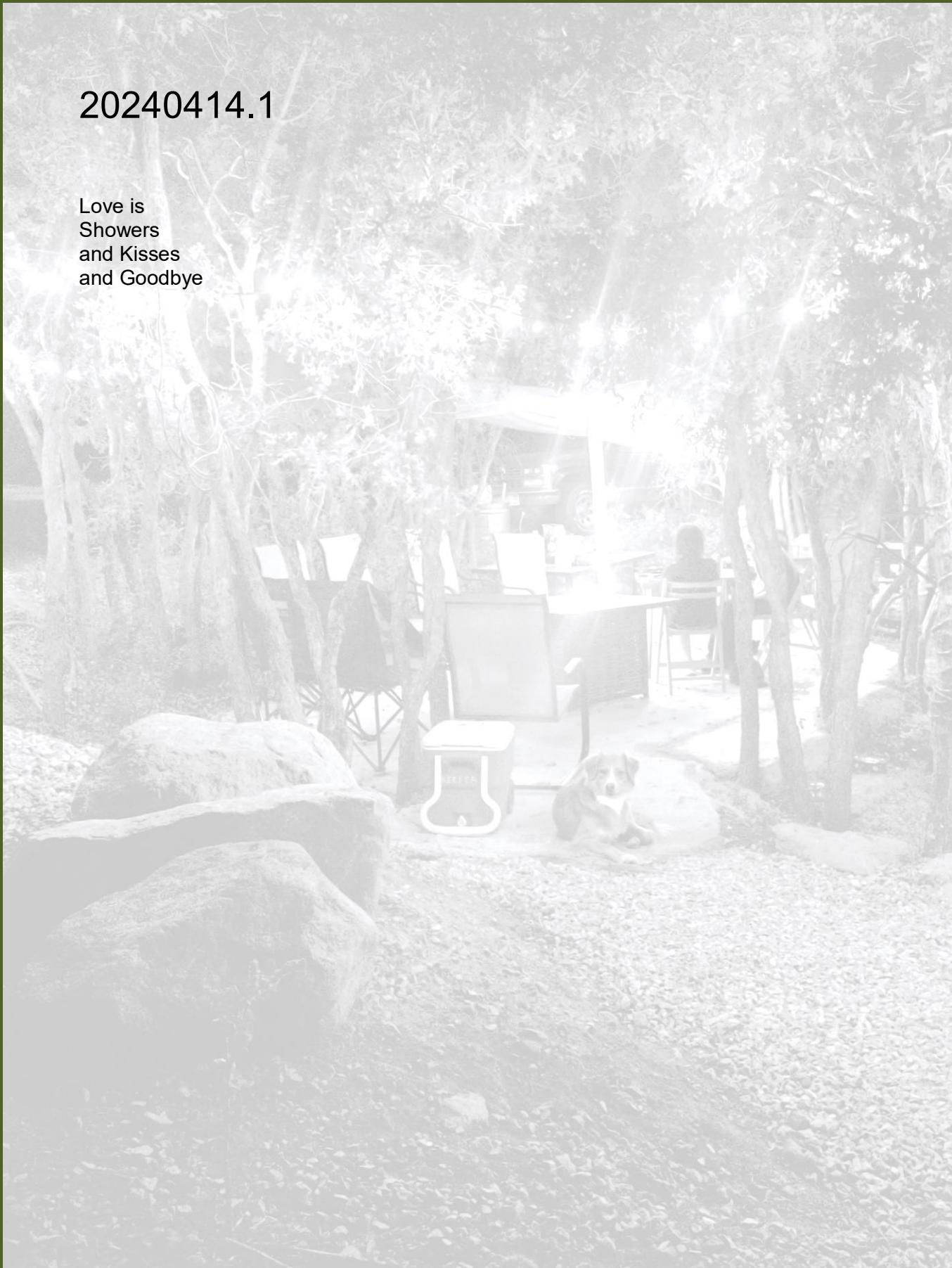
WISE 0323-6025  
26 Draonis  
OU Geminorum  
Alpha Cephei  
31 Aquilae  
51 Pegasi  
Chi Herculis  
HR 3138  
Alpha Circini

Bring me to now  
My life is a star  
Whose light I have not seen



20240414.1

Love is  
Showers  
and Kisses  
and Goodbye



20240414.2

The Spirits  
that follow you  
have departed

The empty  
is complete

The story  
ends

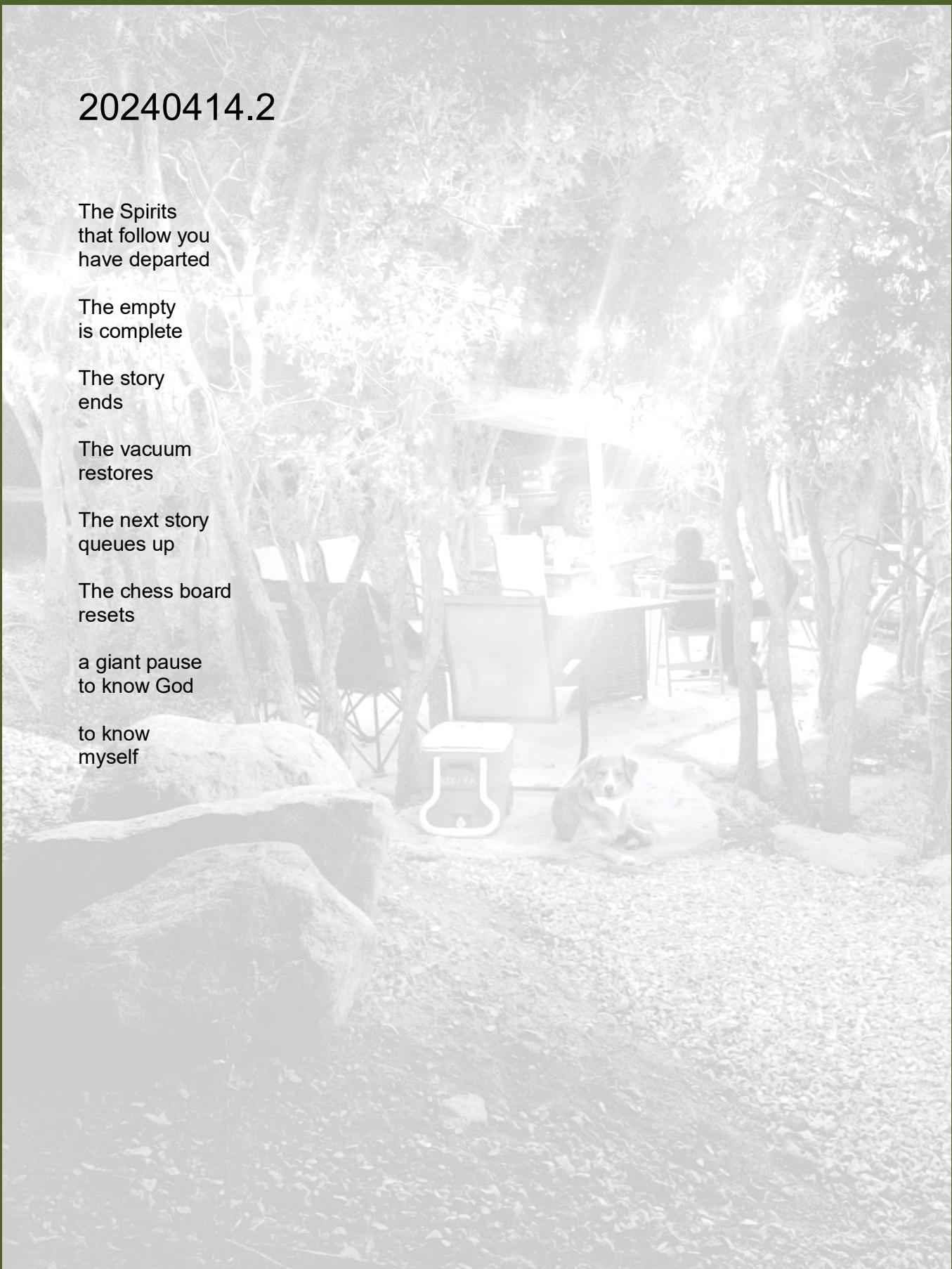
The vacuum  
restores

The next story  
queues up

The chess board  
resets

a giant pause  
to know God

to know  
myself



20240414.3

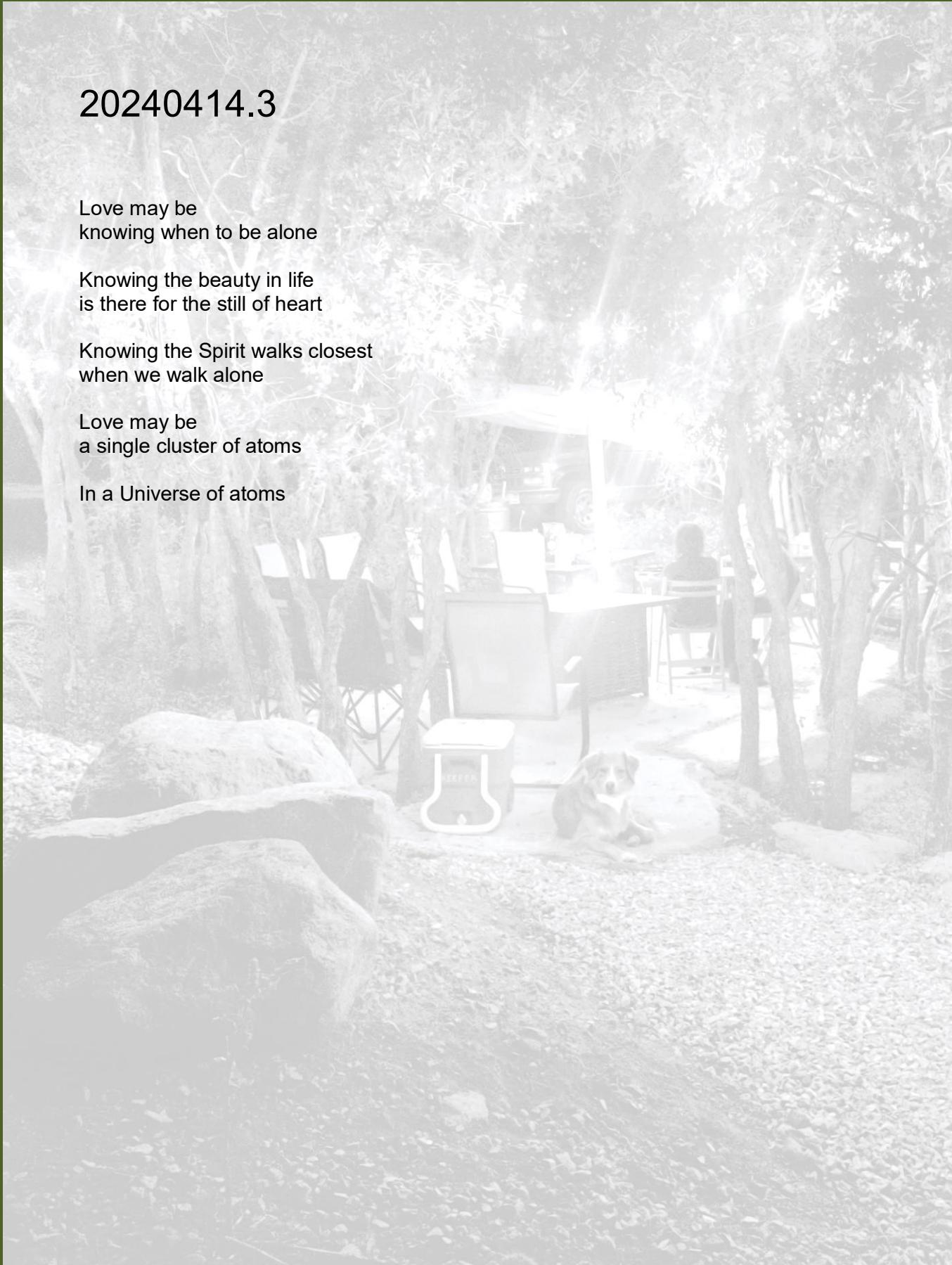
Love may be  
knowing when to be alone

Knowing the beauty in life  
is there for the still of heart

Knowing the Spirit walks closest  
when we walk alone

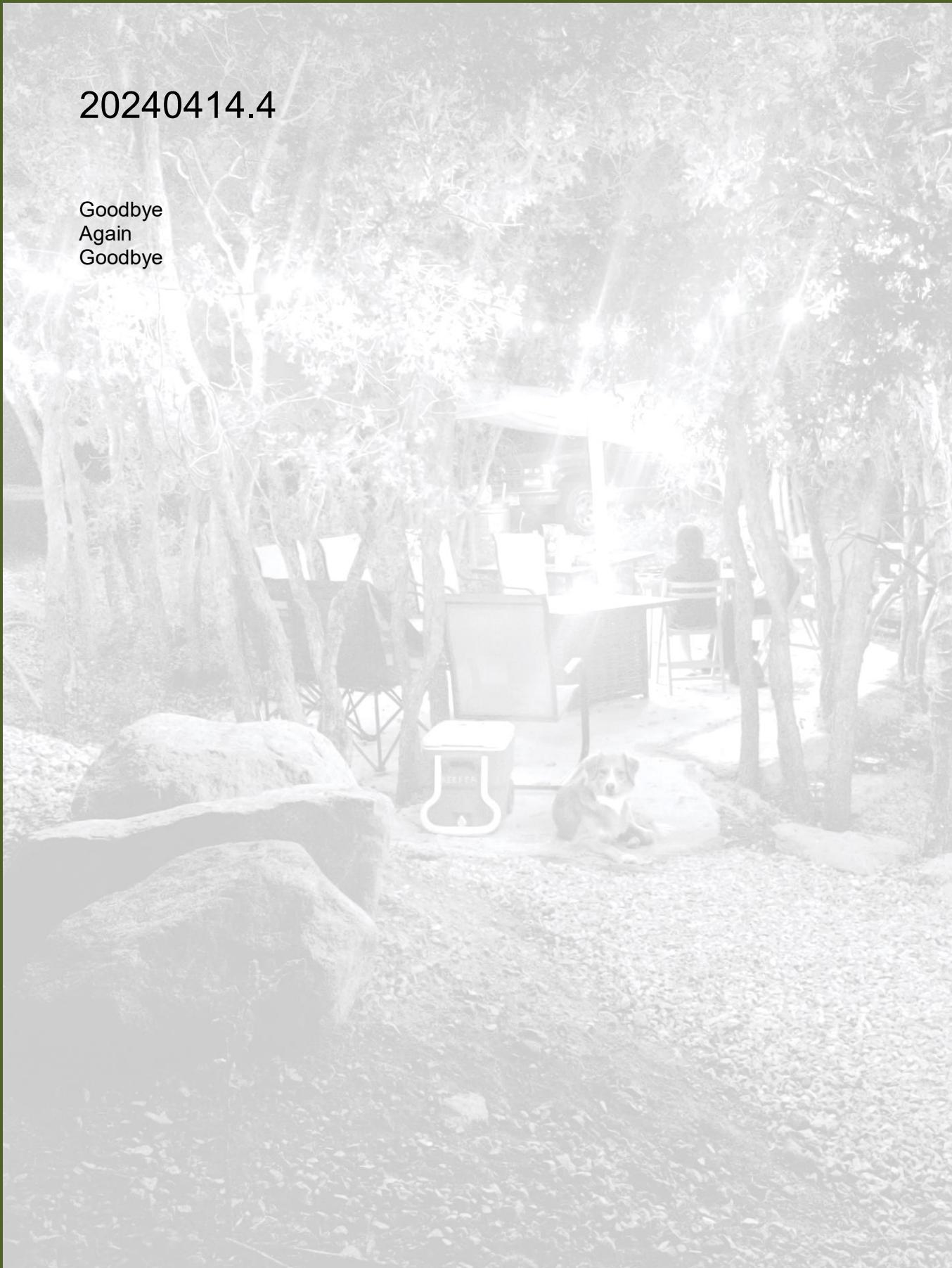
Love may be  
a single cluster of atoms

In a Universe of atoms



20240414.4

Goodbye  
Again  
Goodbye



20240414.5

I love you

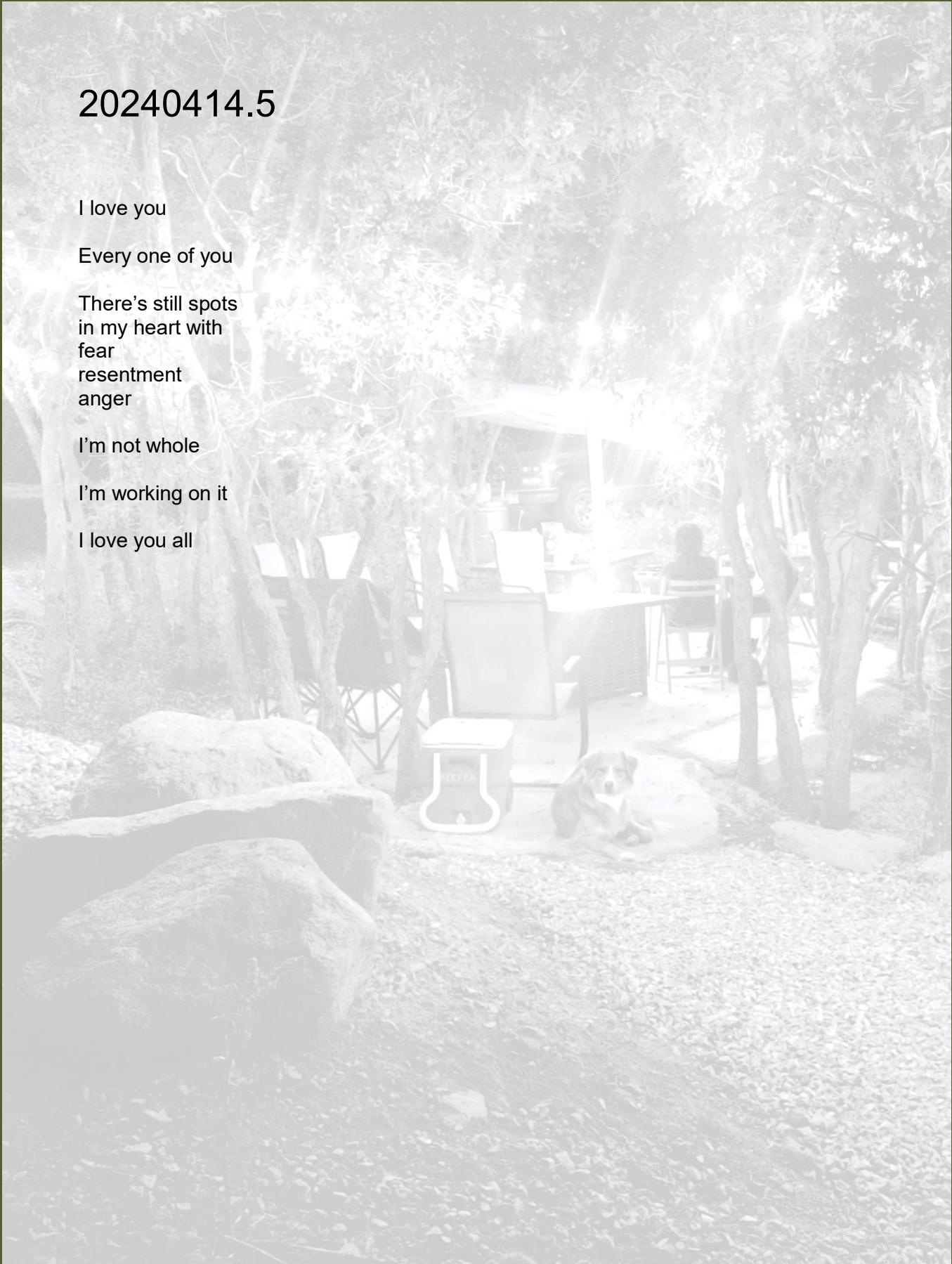
Every one of you

There's still spots  
in my heart with  
fear  
resentment  
anger

I'm not whole

I'm working on it

I love you all



## 20240415.1

I don't want this to be my space  
but it is

Unsettled  
pushing chest-first  
through feelings  
rolling thoughts  
like hammers on sheet metal  
knowing no woman wants a man  
that struggles  
inside

Every woman wants  
Success  
Strength  
Confidence  
Humor

And I've got that

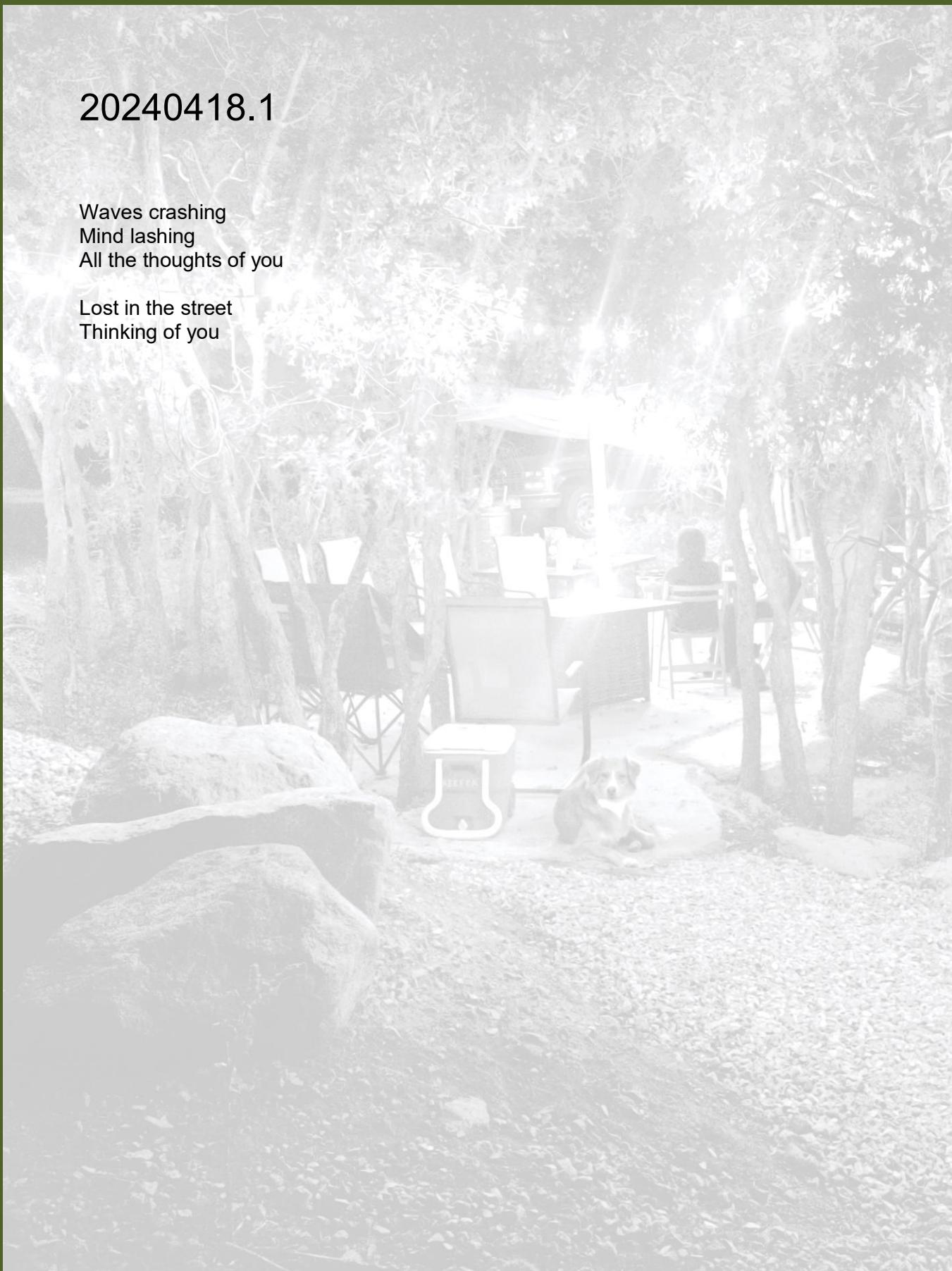
But I've got the heavy shit too  
and I can't pretend it away  
I can't deny  
or hide  
my voice  
myself

To hell with the woman that wants  
just the best parts of me  
and retreats  
from the human parts of me

20240418.1

Waves crashing  
Mind lashing  
All the thoughts of you

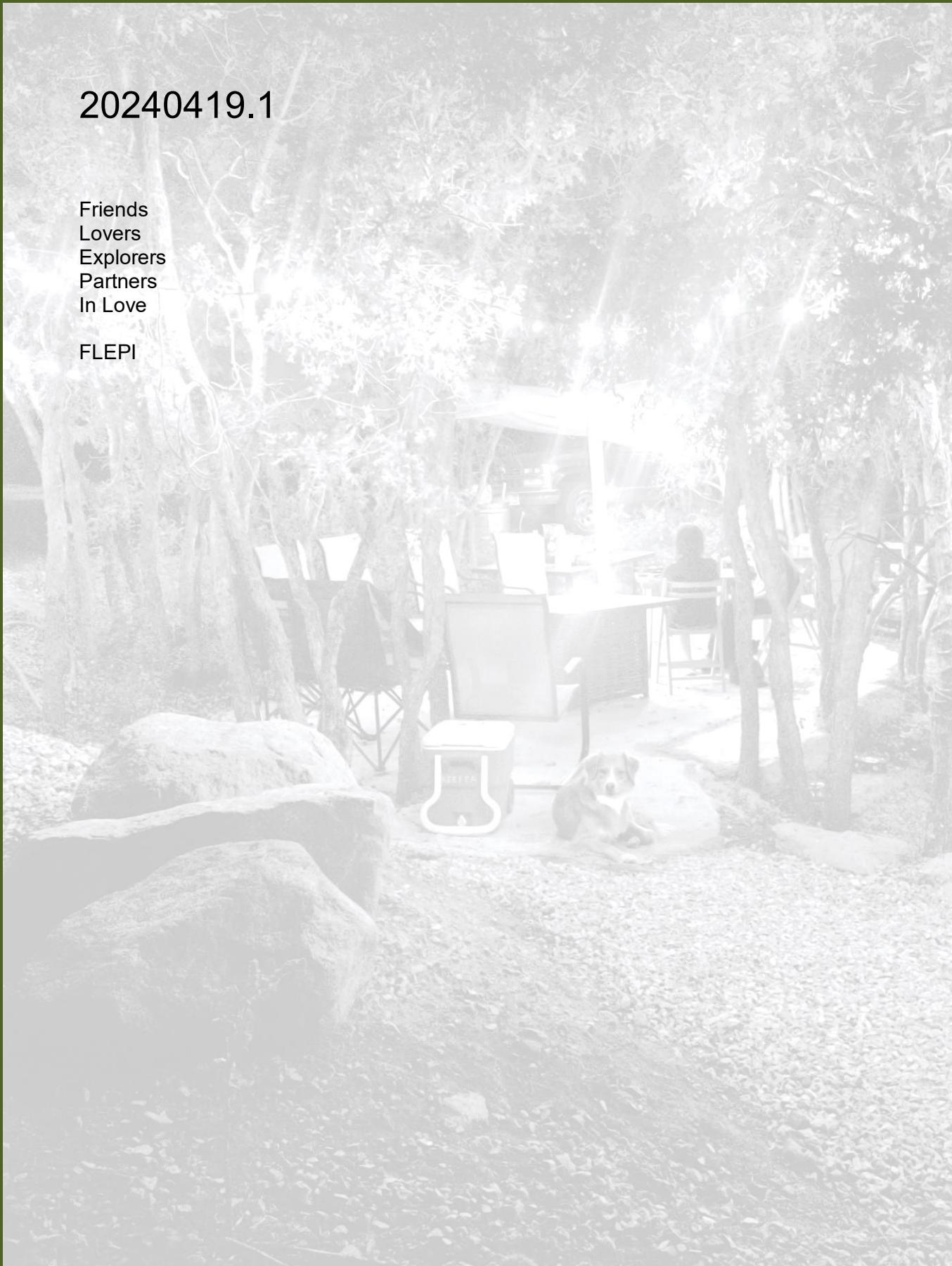
Lost in the street  
Thinking of you



20240419.1

Friends  
Lovers  
Explorers  
Partners  
In Love

FLEPI



20240419.2

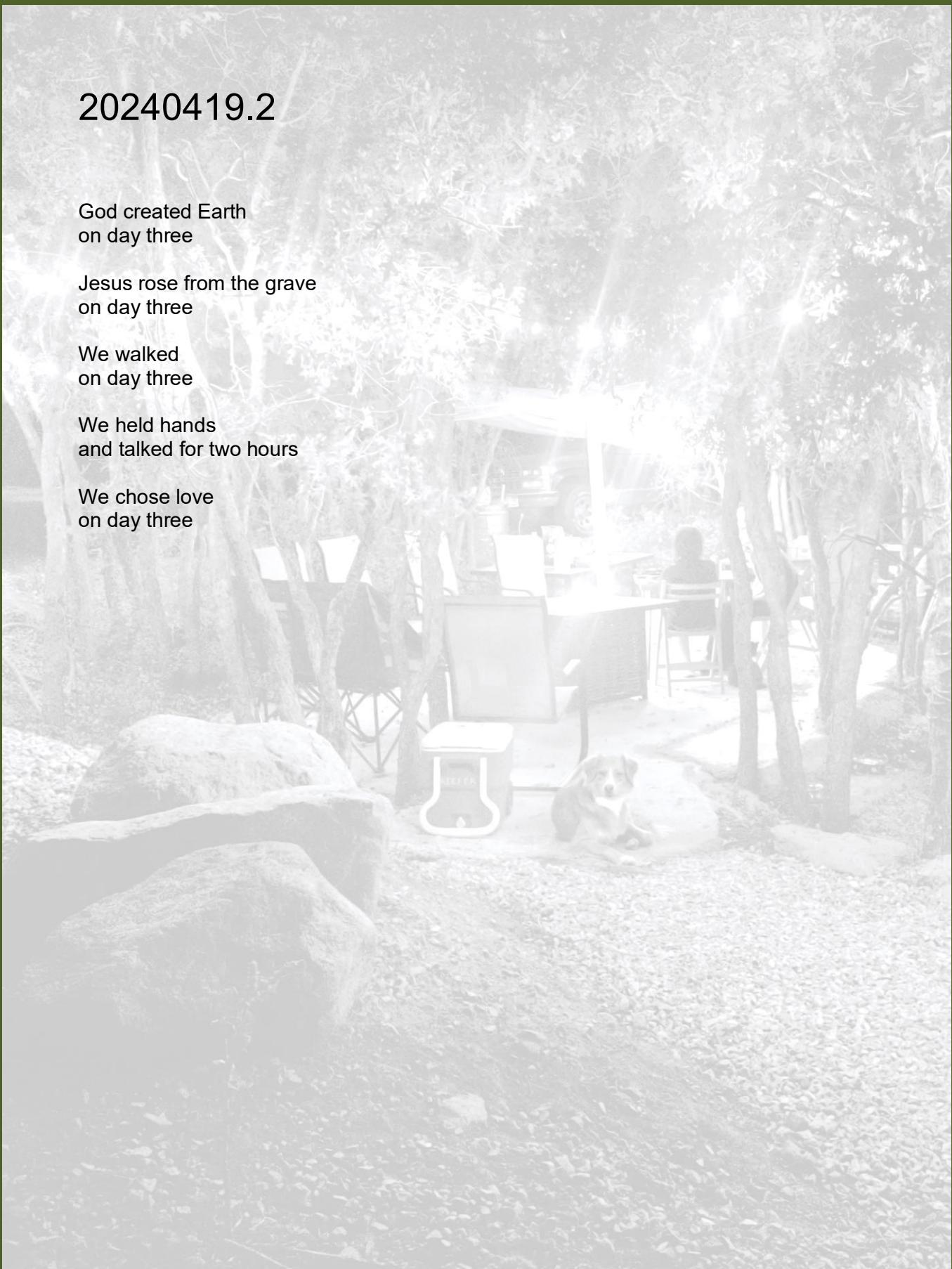
God created Earth  
on day three

Jesus rose from the grave  
on day three

We walked  
on day three

We held hands  
and talked for two hours

We chose love  
on day three



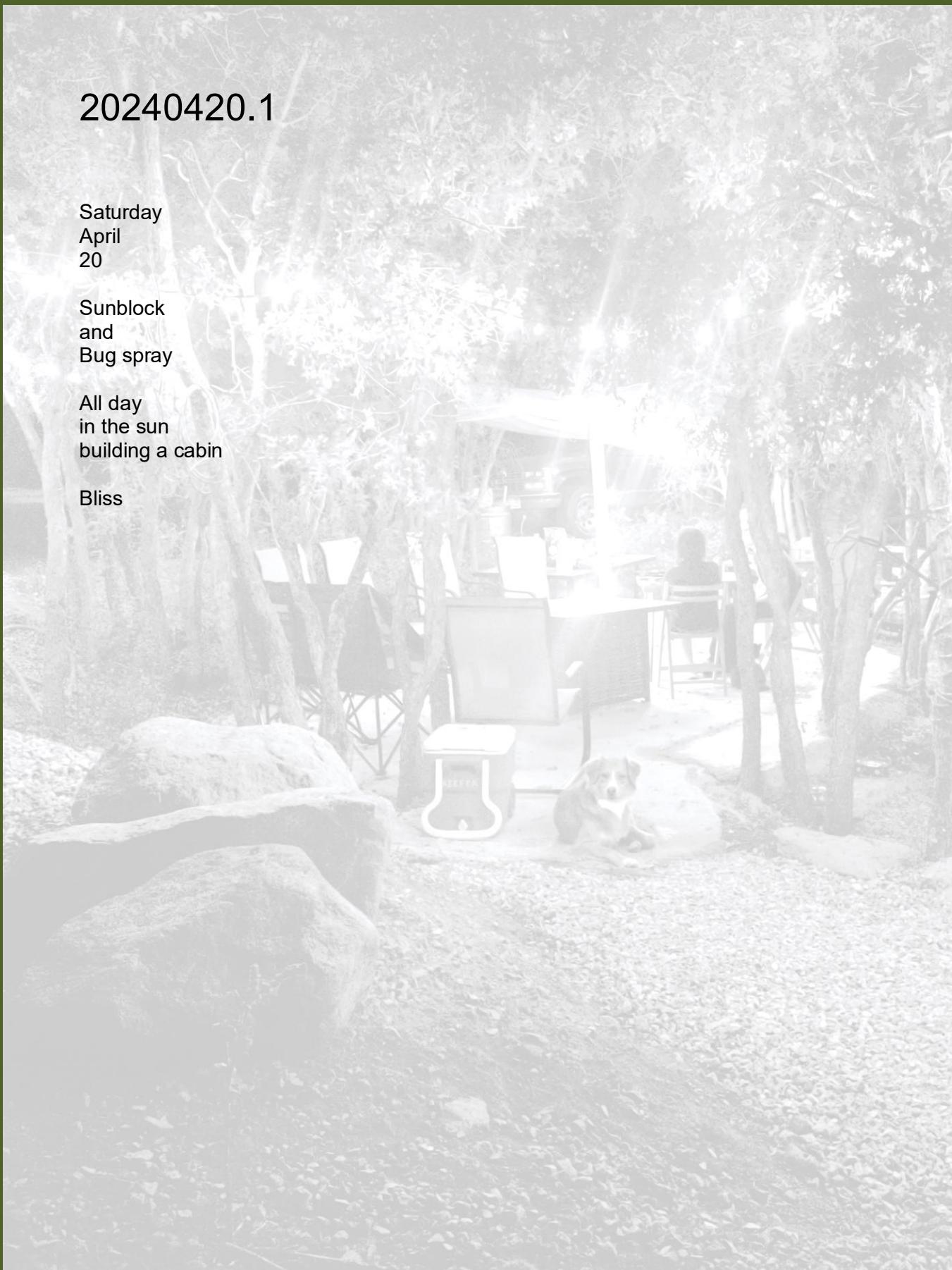
20240420.1

Saturday  
April  
20

Sunblock  
and  
Bug spray

All day  
in the sun  
building a cabin

Bliss



20240421.2

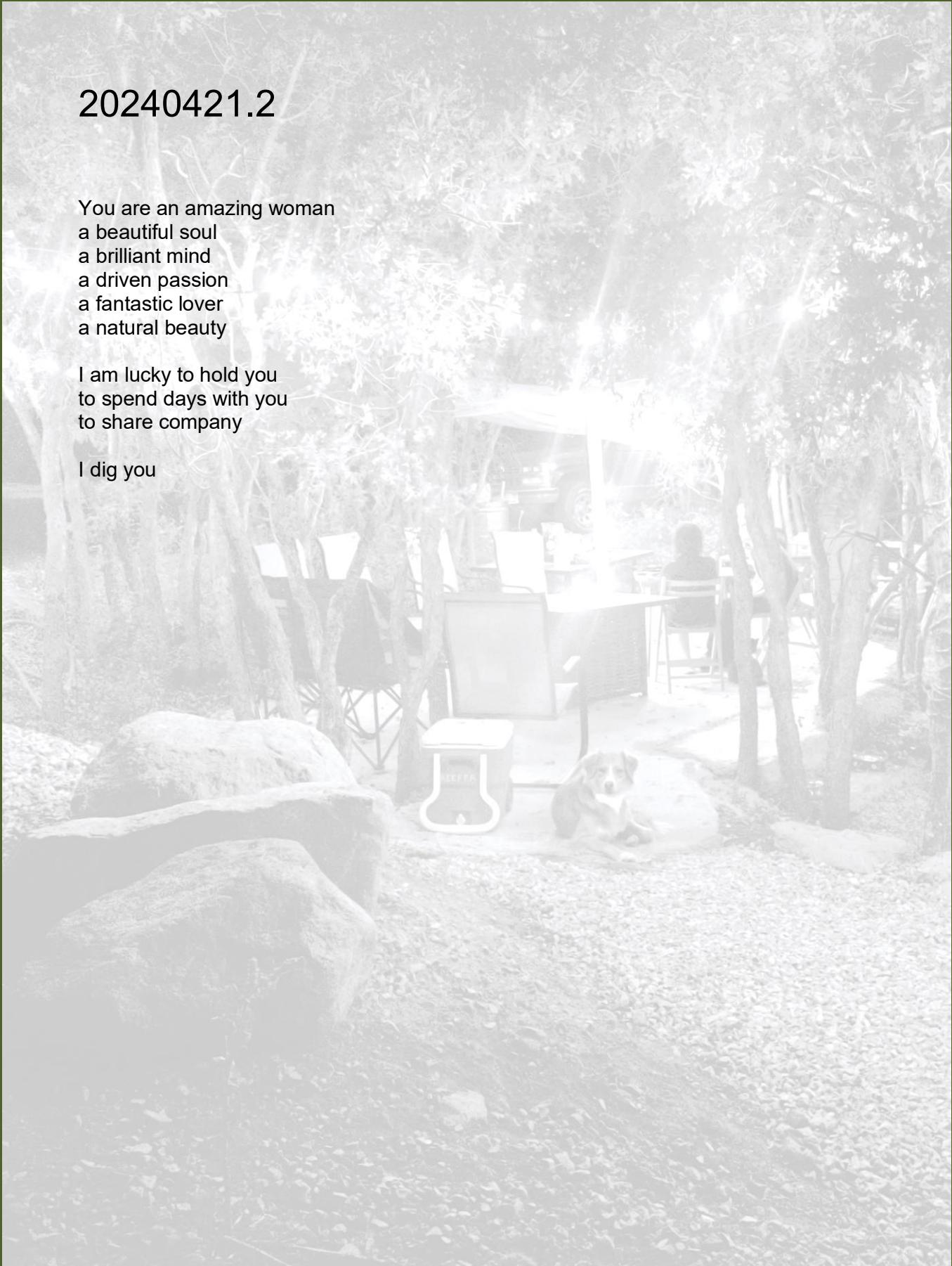
His life was not tintinnabulation  
But this was among his favorite words  
His life was solitary sadness  
and public jocularity  
He killed himself slowly  
with food and smoke  
I love him  
He is a large part my life and my soul  
I have learned from him  
My laments  
and my joys  
will all be public  
no shadows  
no unrequited love  
no guilt  
Because of this  
I work happy  
and sleep happy

20240421.2

You are an amazing woman  
a beautiful soul  
a brilliant mind  
a driven passion  
a fantastic lover  
a natural beauty

I am lucky to hold you  
to spend days with you  
to share company

I dig you



## 20240429.1

she adores me  
I love her  
this is true

it's early  
this is true

how much time  
before we settle into a routine

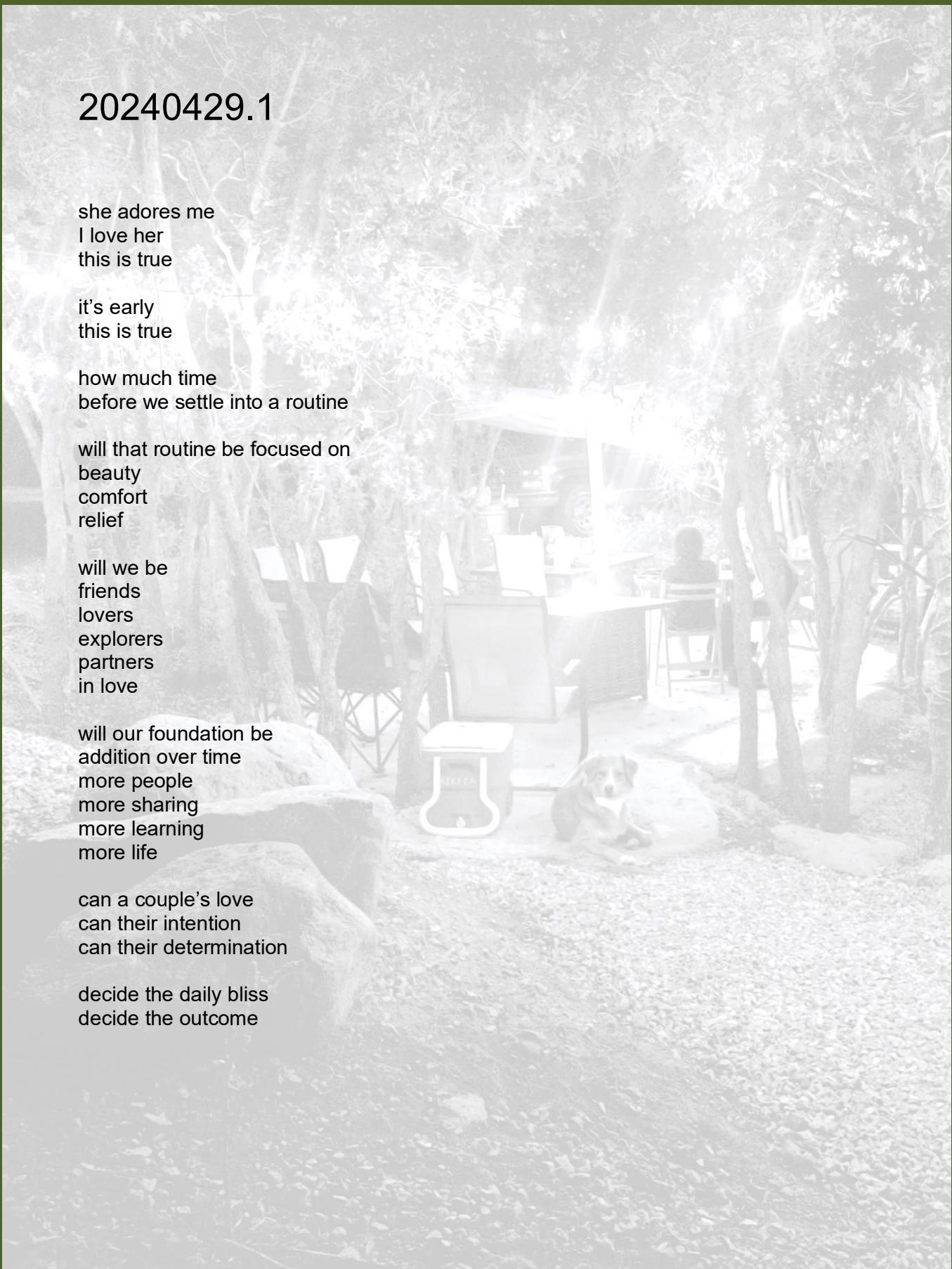
will that routine be focused on  
beauty  
comfort  
relief

will we be  
friends  
lovers  
explorers  
partners  
in love

will our foundation be  
addition over time  
more people  
more sharing  
more learning  
more life

can a couple's love  
can their intention  
can their determination

decide the daily bliss  
decide the outcome



20240504.1

she wants to think it's only for sex  
when she gets sad  
when she gets mad  
she wants to think it's not  
important  
she wants to think it's  
interchangeable  
replaceable  
breakable by design  
she wants to  
not need love

it's a response  
a mechanism  
a defense  
to keep insulated  
to keep bulletproof

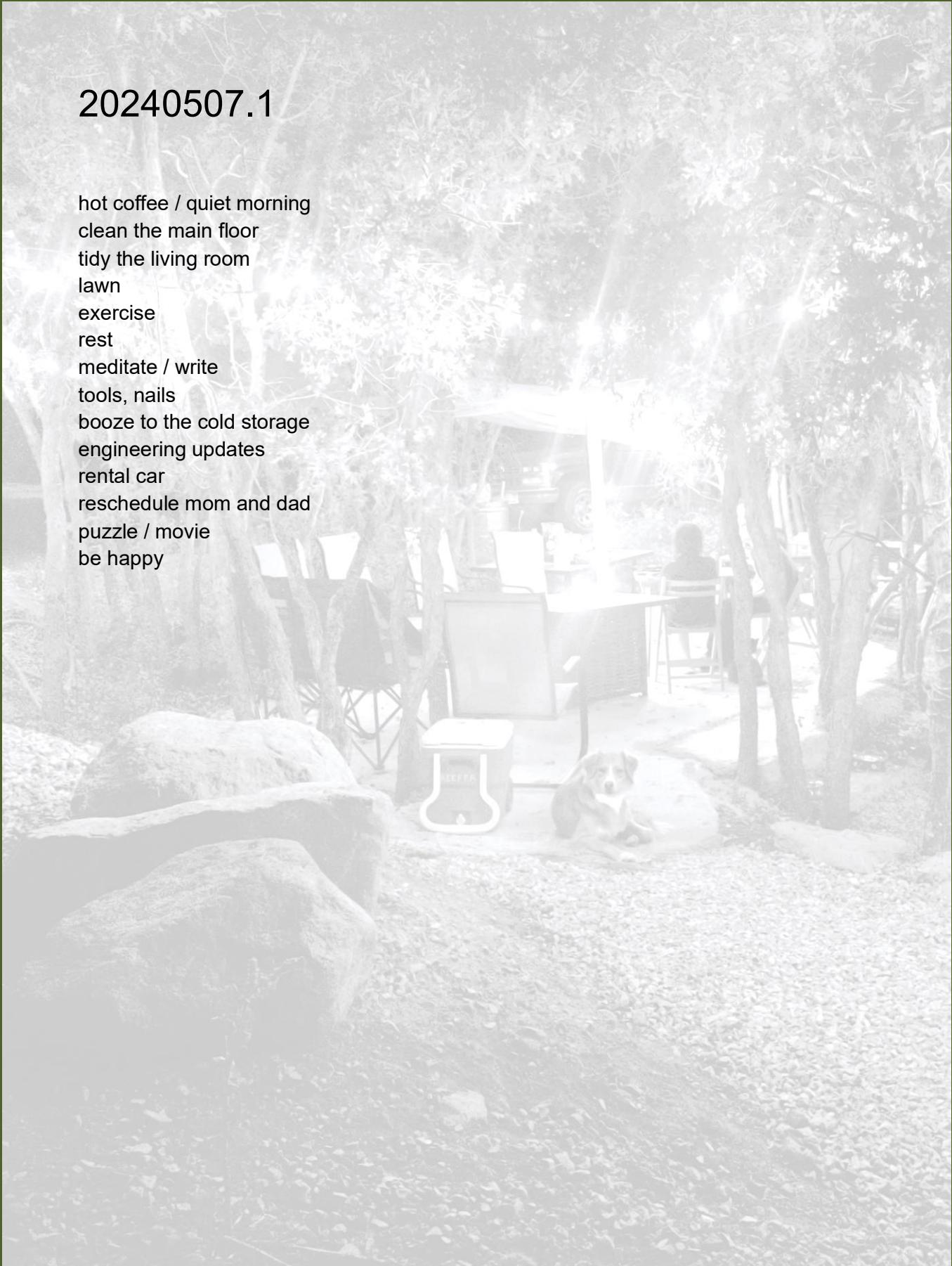
she wants to think  
it's just her  
no one else

she's sideways on ice  
she's sliding  
she's off track  
she's looking back

hold her hand  
kiss her head gently  
sit  
just sit  
with her

20240507.1

hot coffee / quiet morning  
clean the main floor  
tidy the living room  
lawn  
exercise  
rest  
meditate / write  
tools, nails  
booze to the cold storage  
engineering updates  
rental car  
reschedule mom and dad  
puzzle / movie  
be happy



## 20240507.2

100,000 souls  
trapped in bodies  
that hurt  
worry  
plead  
panic  
cry

100,000 bodies  
presented before her  
their thoughts and worries  
presented  
like their clothes on the chair

naked  
their truth  
what nature has done to them  
what they did to themselves

she takes them in her hands  
feels  
looks  
listens  
recalls almost impossible training

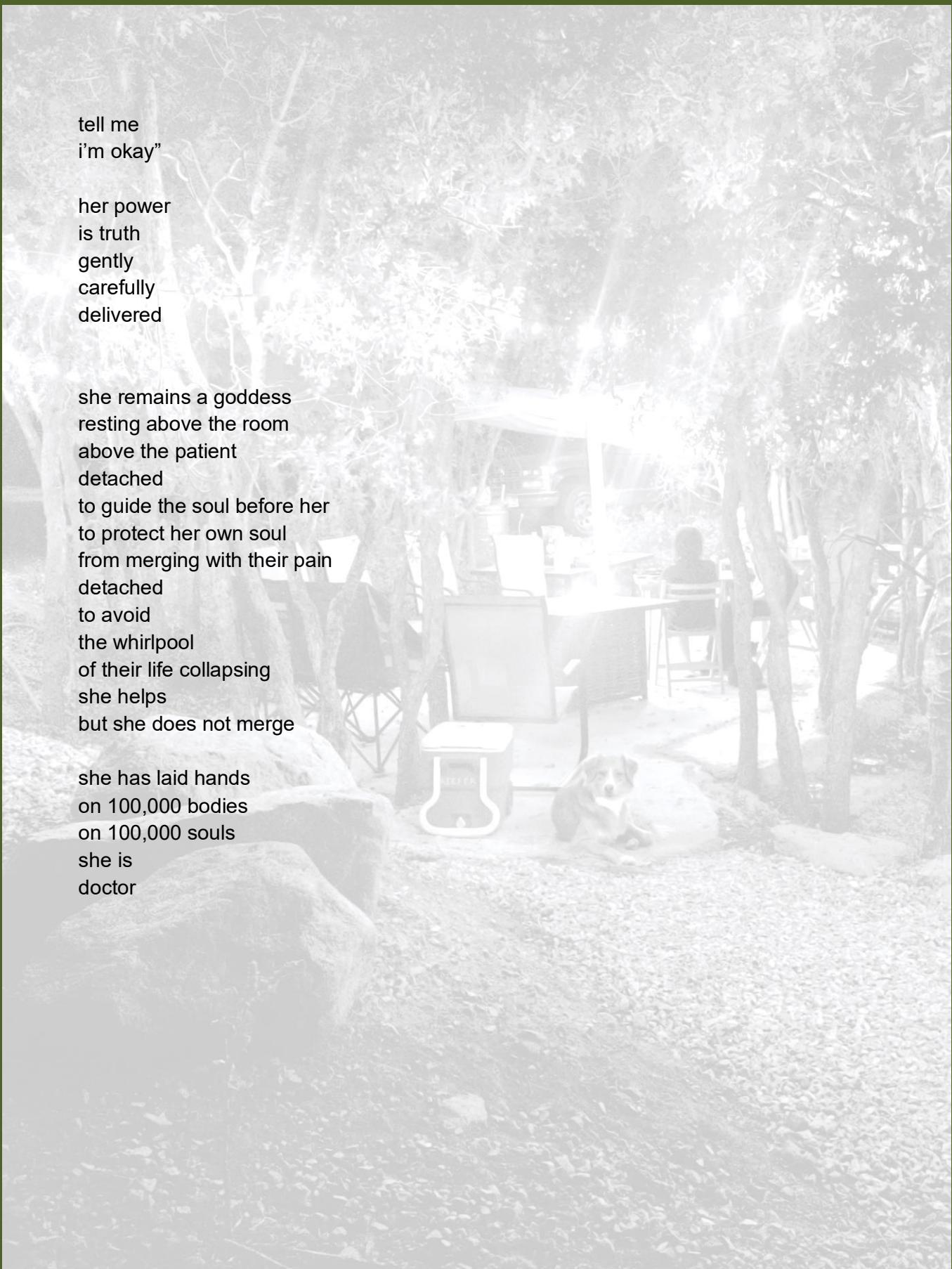
but really  
she hears  
their soul whisper to her soul  
"help me  
tell me i'm not alone  
tell me there's a cure  
a way  
to regain  
what is slipping  
or is already lost

tell me  
i'm okay"

her power  
is truth  
gently  
carefully  
delivered

she remains a goddess  
resting above the room  
above the patient  
detached  
to guide the soul before her  
to protect her own soul  
from merging with their pain  
detached  
to avoid  
the whirlpool  
of their life collapsing  
she helps  
but she does not merge

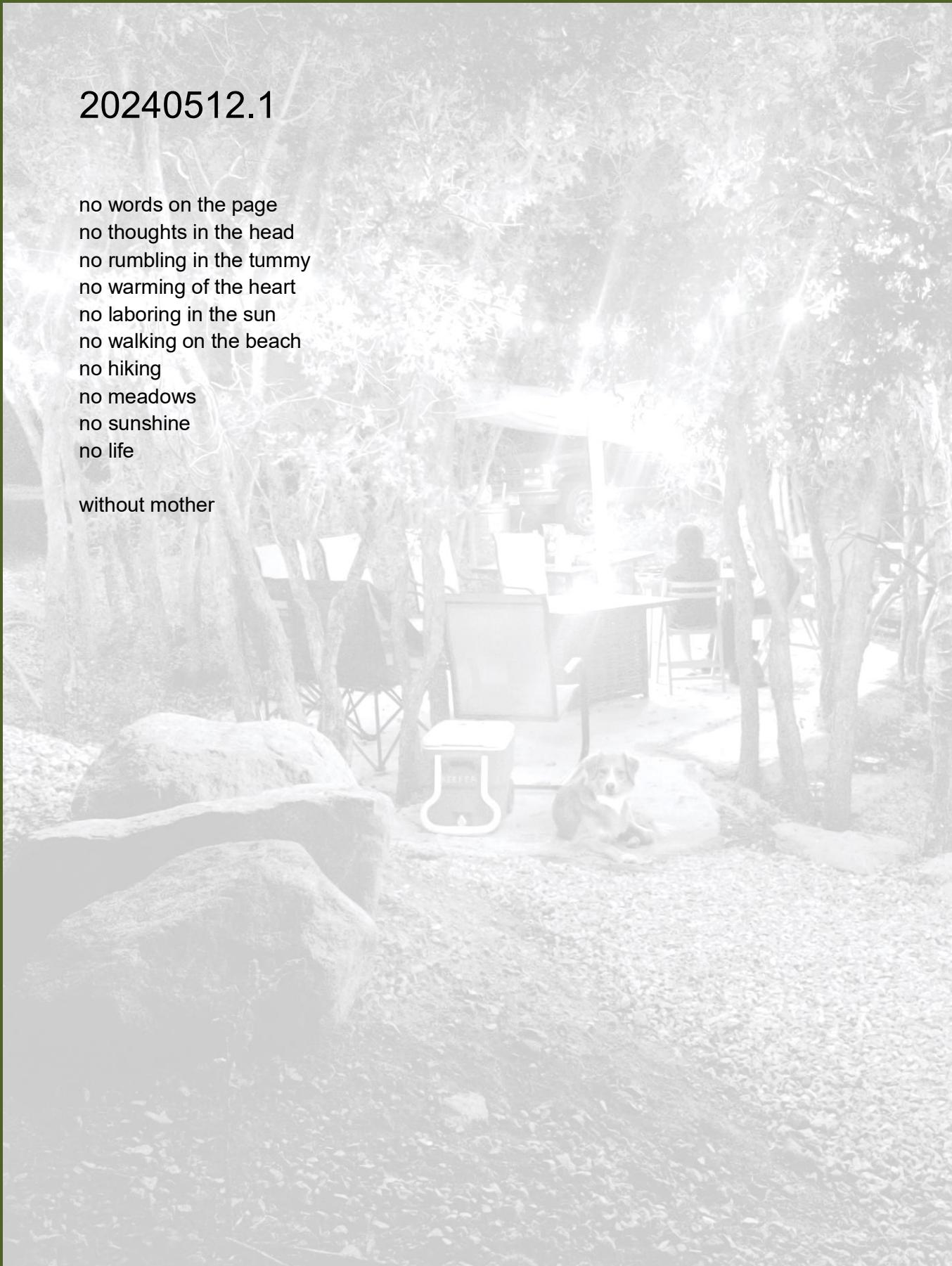
she has laid hands  
on 100,000 bodies  
on 100,000 souls  
she is  
doctor



20240512.1

no words on the page  
no thoughts in the head  
no rumbling in the tummy  
no warming of the heart  
no laboring in the sun  
no walking on the beach  
no hiking  
no meadows  
no sunshine  
no life

without mother



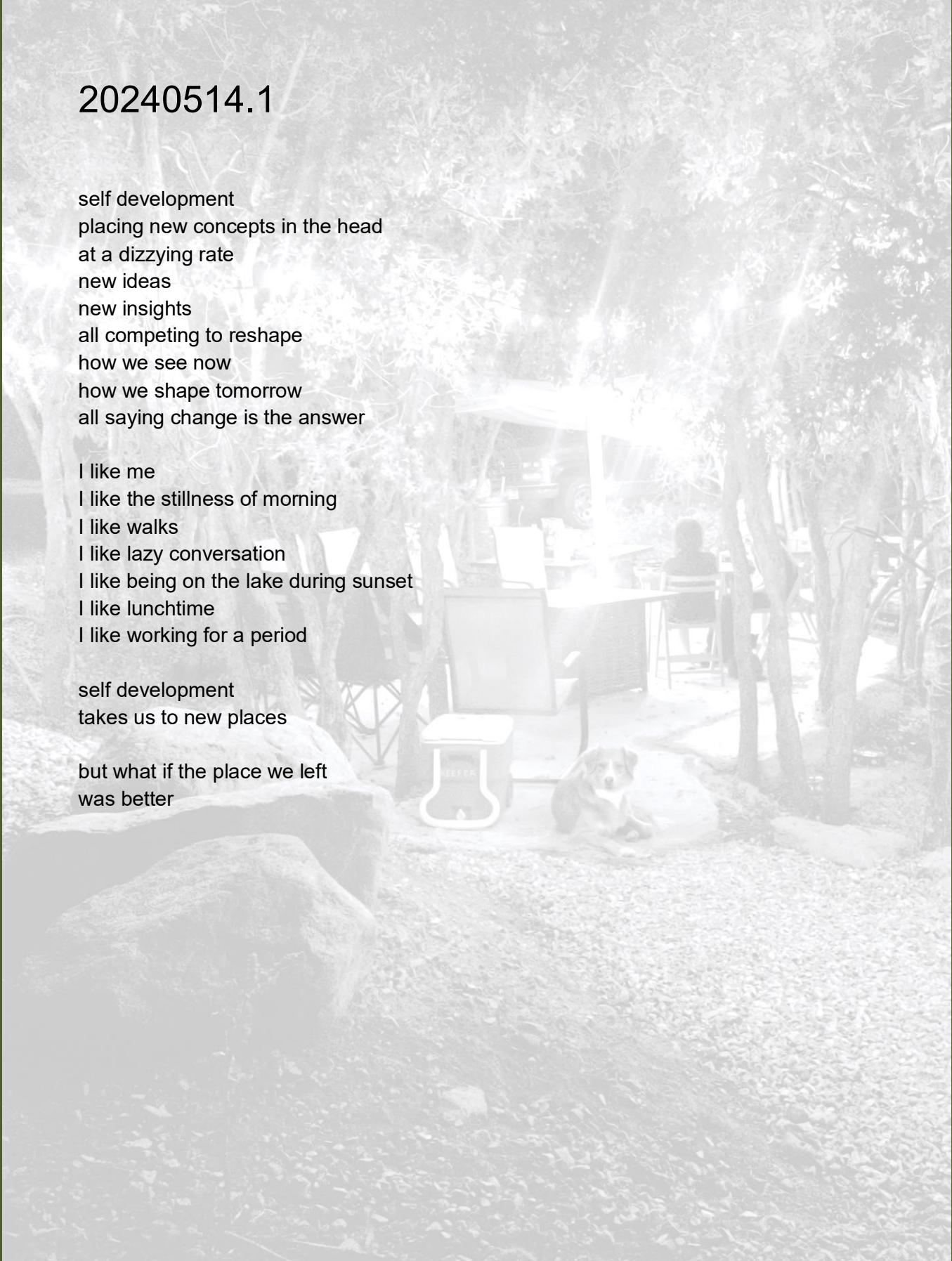
## 20240514.1

self development  
placing new concepts in the head  
at a dizzying rate  
new ideas  
new insights  
all competing to reshape  
how we see now  
how we shape tomorrow  
all saying change is the answer

I like me  
I like the stillness of morning  
I like walks  
I like lazy conversation  
I like being on the lake during sunset  
I like lunchtime  
I like working for a period

self development  
takes us to new places

but what if the place we left  
was better



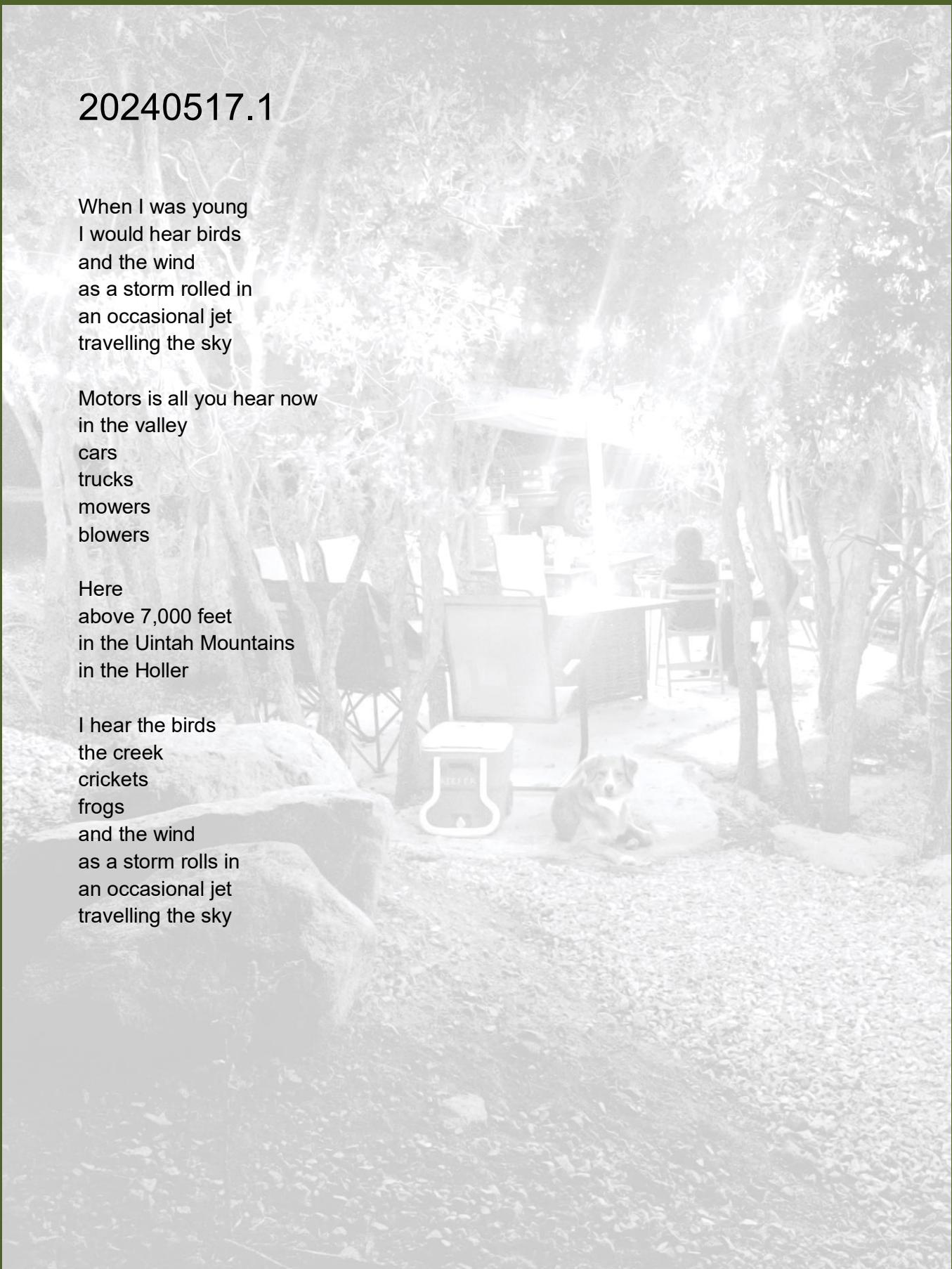
## 20240517.1

When I was young  
I would hear birds  
and the wind  
as a storm rolled in  
an occasional jet  
travelling the sky

Motors is all you hear now  
in the valley  
cars  
trucks  
mowers  
blowers

Here  
above 7,000 feet  
in the Uintah Mountains  
in the Holler

I hear the birds  
the creek  
crickets  
frogs  
and the wind  
as a storm rolls in  
an occasional jet  
travelling the sky



## 20250106.1

solitary confinement is the among the cruelest punishment  
a human can endure

because of this  
we seek other people  
to share stories  
to share lives

but how often  
are those other people  
no, not other people,  
that one person  
your person  
how often is it that your person  
is the one causing you pain

how often does love  
lead to commitment  
morph into resentment  
then tip toward destruction

i love you  
because you are not broken  
bruised a little, yes  
who isn't  
but you are not broken

you are highly capable  
highly engaged  
with people  
with life  
with understanding yourself

i love you because  
you read the situation  
you take action

you course correct  
you control the outcome

i love you because  
you walk with me  
hold hands  
talk for hours  
touch  
and disappear into passion

i love you because  
you can have anyone  
and you choose to sit with me

i love you because  
you are the one woman  
that has allowed me to be human

human doesn't mean lazy  
or hurtful  
you would never tolerate these behaviors

human means  
a body that isn't perfect  
thoughts that could be better refined  
a life story with both wins and losses  
a desire to rest at times  
human

isolation hurts  
being with the wrong person hurts

being with you is easy  
being with you is restful  
being with you is joyful

this is why I love you

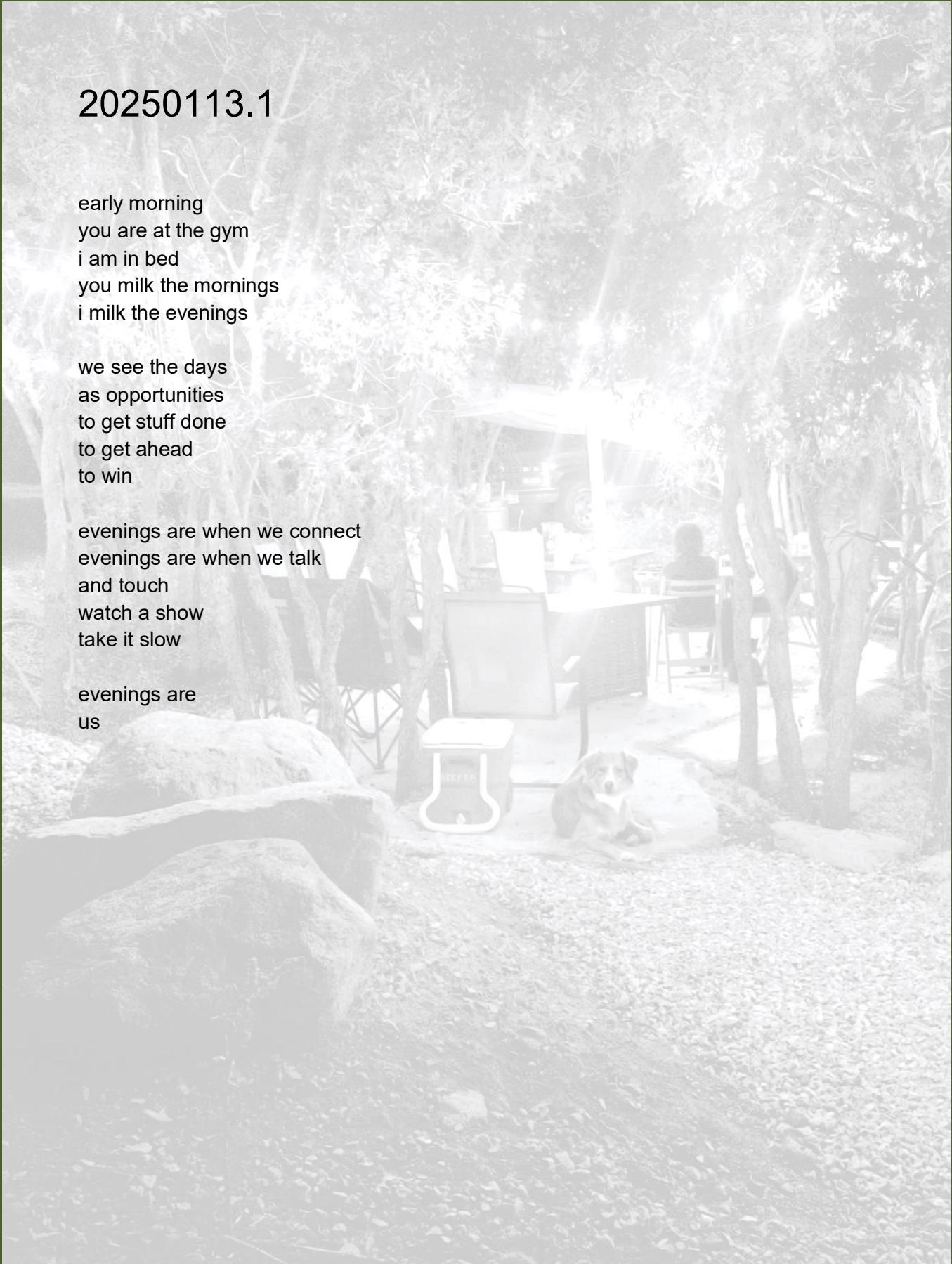
20250113.1

early morning  
you are at the gym  
i am in bed  
you milk the mornings  
i milk the evenings

we see the days  
as opportunities  
to get stuff done  
to get ahead  
to win

evenings are when we connect  
evenings are when we talk  
and touch  
watch a show  
take it slow

evenings are  
us



## 20250113.2

my son is adrift  
schizophrenic  
ill equipped  
to handle life  
unable to work  
unable to learn  
unable to see

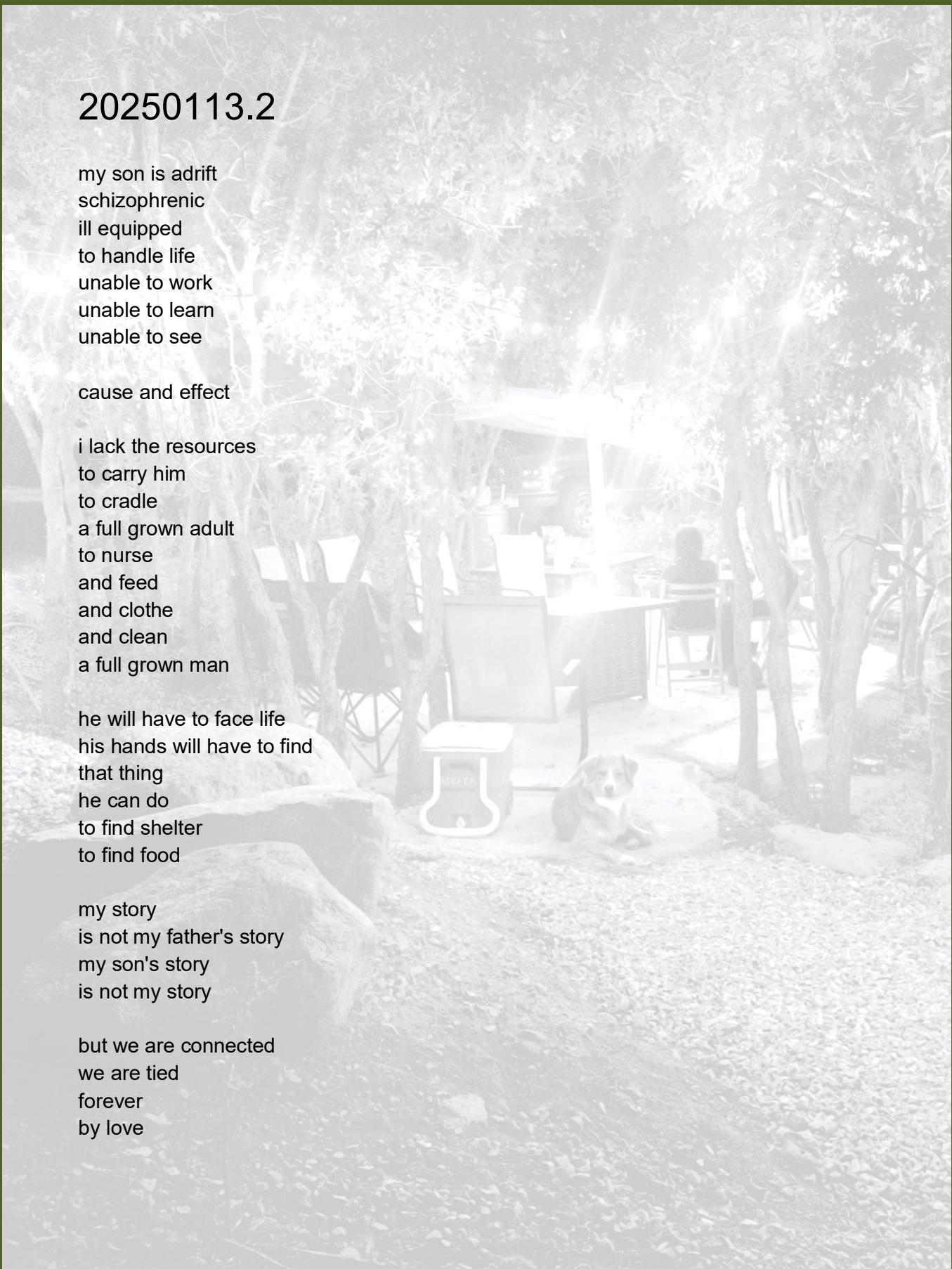
cause and effect

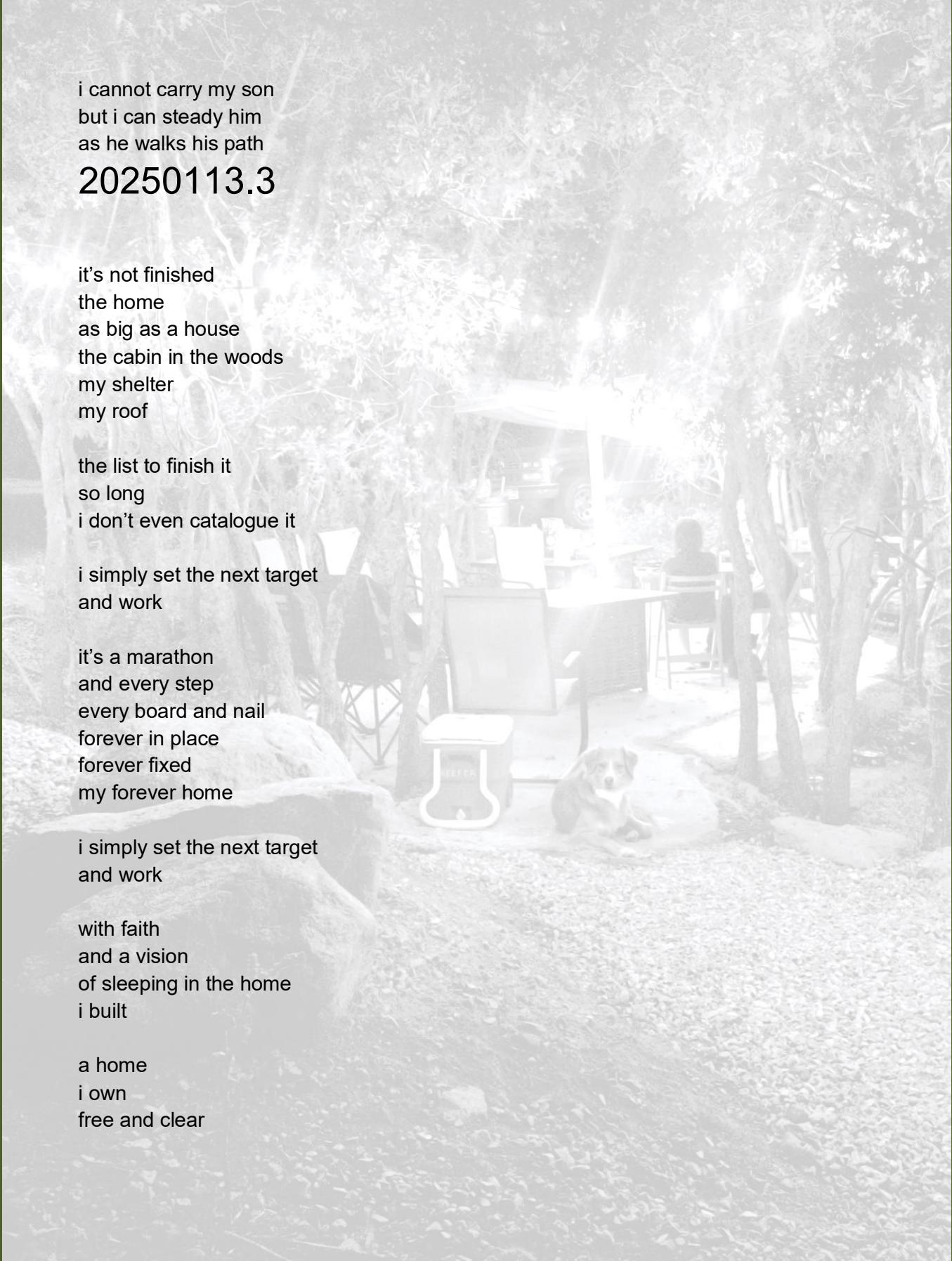
i lack the resources  
to carry him  
to cradle  
a full grown adult  
to nurse  
and feed  
and clothe  
and clean  
a full grown man

he will have to face life  
his hands will have to find  
that thing  
he can do  
to find shelter  
to find food

my story  
is not my father's story  
my son's story  
is not my story

but we are connected  
we are tied  
forever  
by love





i cannot carry my son  
but i can steady him  
as he walks his path

**20250113.3**

it's not finished  
the home  
as big as a house  
the cabin in the woods  
my shelter  
my roof

the list to finish it  
so long  
i don't even catalogue it

i simply set the next target  
and work

it's a marathon  
and every step  
every board and nail  
forever in place  
forever fixed  
my forever home

i simply set the next target  
and work

with faith  
and a vision  
of sleeping in the home  
i built

a home  
i own  
free and clear



## 20250118.1

it hurts  
the changes  
all of them  
over the years

what I built  
gone  
what I had  
lost

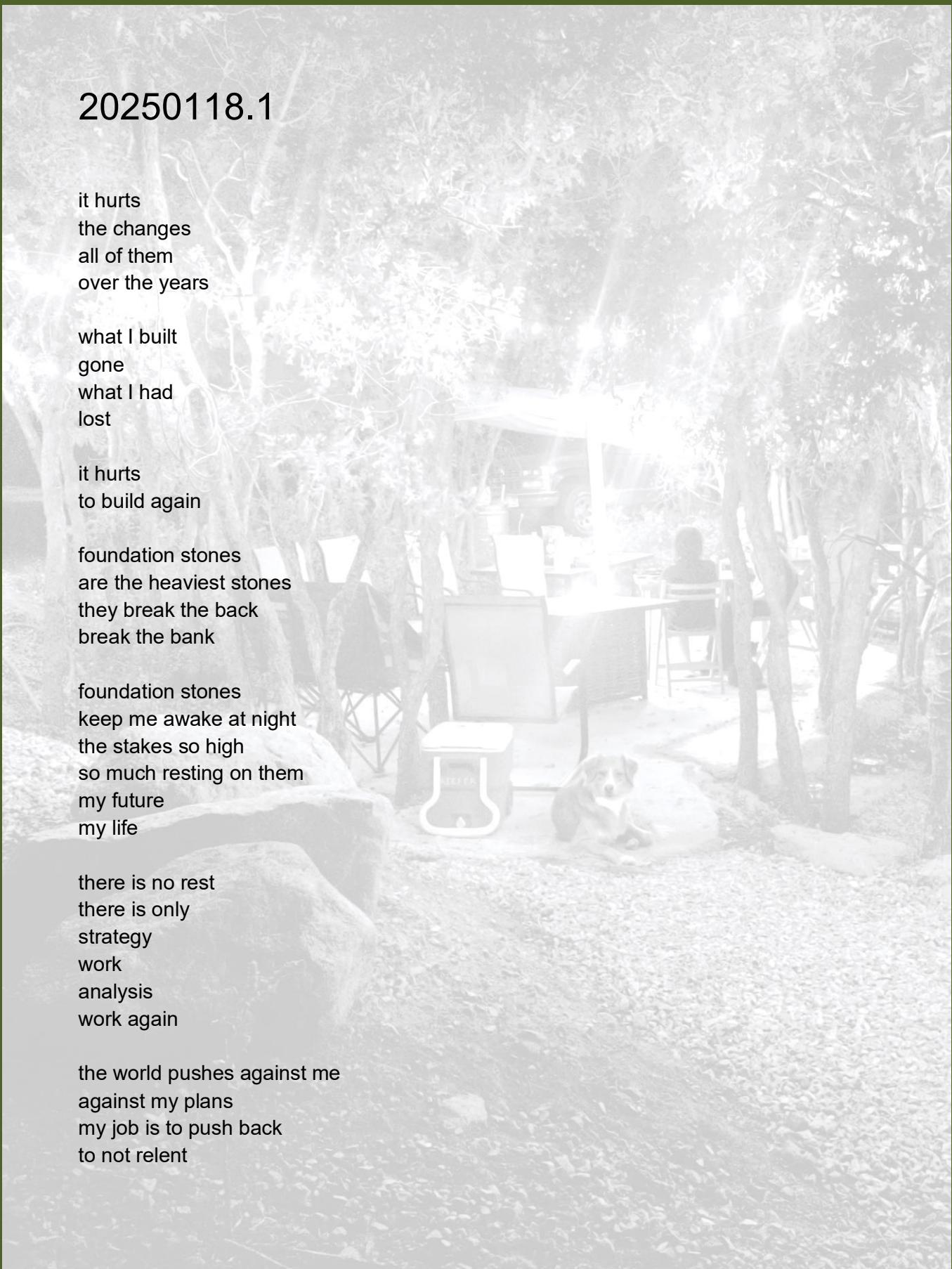
it hurts  
to build again

foundation stones  
are the heaviest stones  
they break the back  
break the bank

foundation stones  
keep me awake at night  
the stakes so high  
so much resting on them  
my future  
my life

there is no rest  
there is only  
strategy  
work  
analysis  
work again

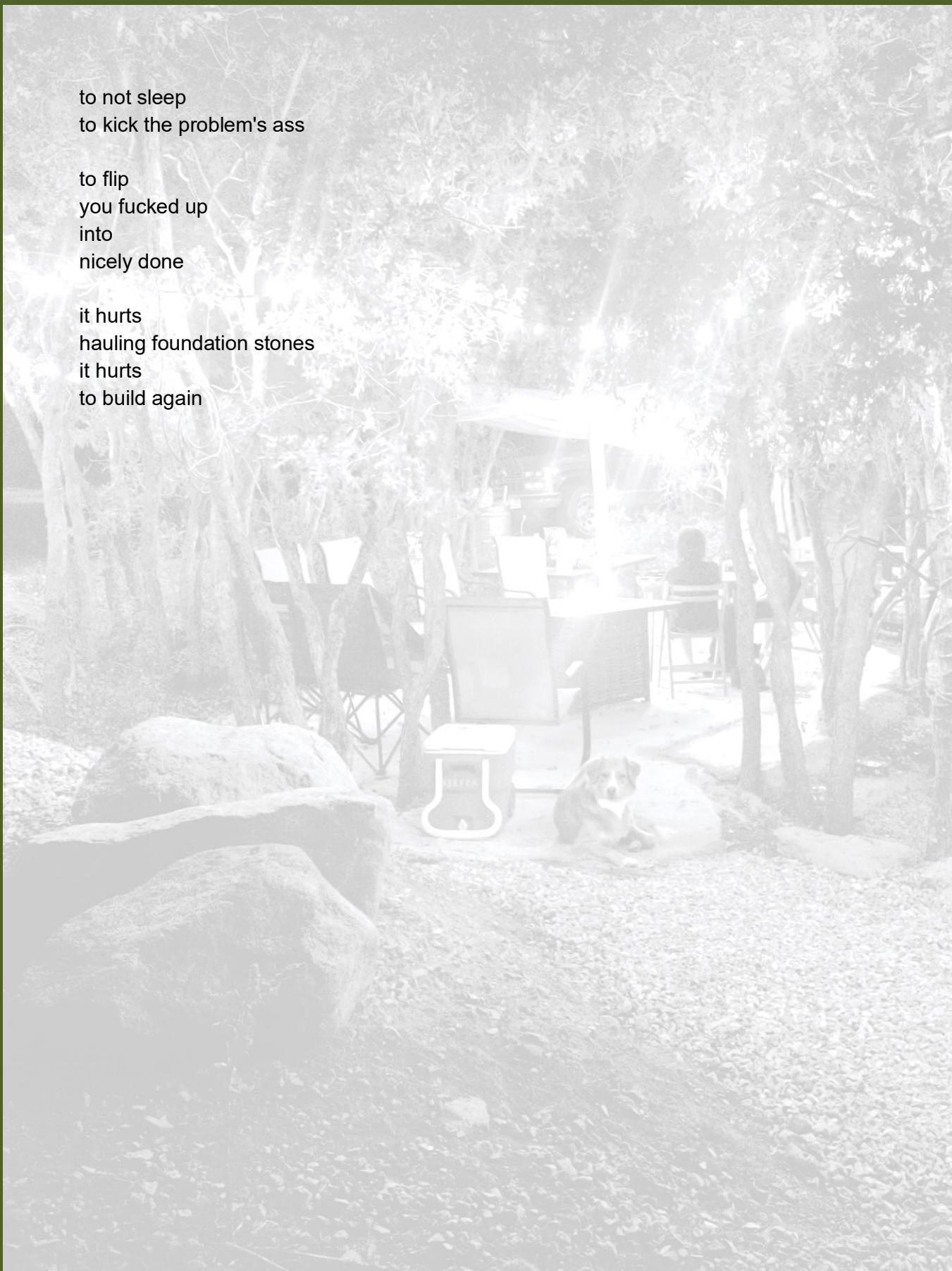
the world pushes against me  
against my plans  
my job is to push back  
to not relent



to not sleep  
to kick the problem's ass

to flip  
you fucked up  
into  
nicely done

it hurts  
hauling foundation stones  
it hurts  
to build again



20250118.2

these comforts  
are your comforts

you share them  
at your will

as you should  
that's fair  
that's your right

i am grateful

and alert  
not settled  
not accepting

because it is not mine  
it is yours  
i am a guest

yes

a lover  
a friend  
a confidant  
a safe place

but i am here  
at your will  
and at your disposal

i cannot rest

these comforts  
are your comforts



## 20250118.3

five years have passed

and my sons are back

a gap

a rift in time

a tare in the fabric  
of the universe

life is

computer code  
scrolling down a screen

dancers  
dressed fancy  
spinning to music played too fast  
a frantic twirling  
pulling away  
exhausted  
out of control

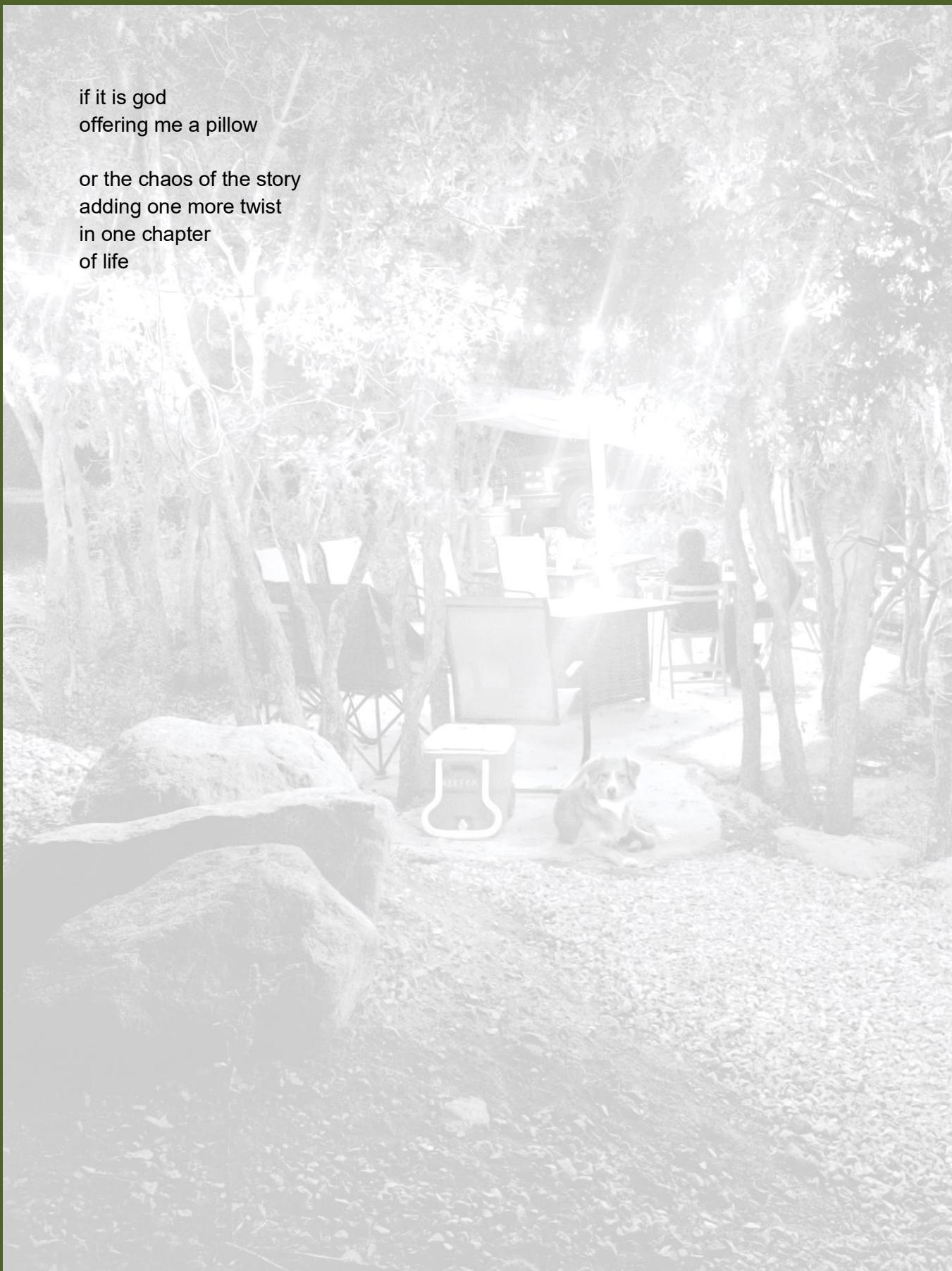
ants in a farm  
pressed against facebook glass  
moving not with thought  
but with chemical signals  
running the colony  
at high speed  
detrimental  
to each single ant

my sons come back

and I know not

if it is god  
offering me a pillow

or the chaos of the story  
adding one more twist  
in one chapter  
of life



## 20250124.1

it's the house i've lived in  
for over seven years

every room empty  
except for the one i sleep in

boxes stacked high  
in the garage

a for sale sign  
in the yard

it's the end  
of something

something personal  
something comfortable

it's the start  
of something else

something unknown  
something far away

i hope that that something else  
is as beautiful

as this home  
has been

## 20250126.1

it is the nature of man  
to want more  
than is good for us

calories  
consumed  
to the point  
of death

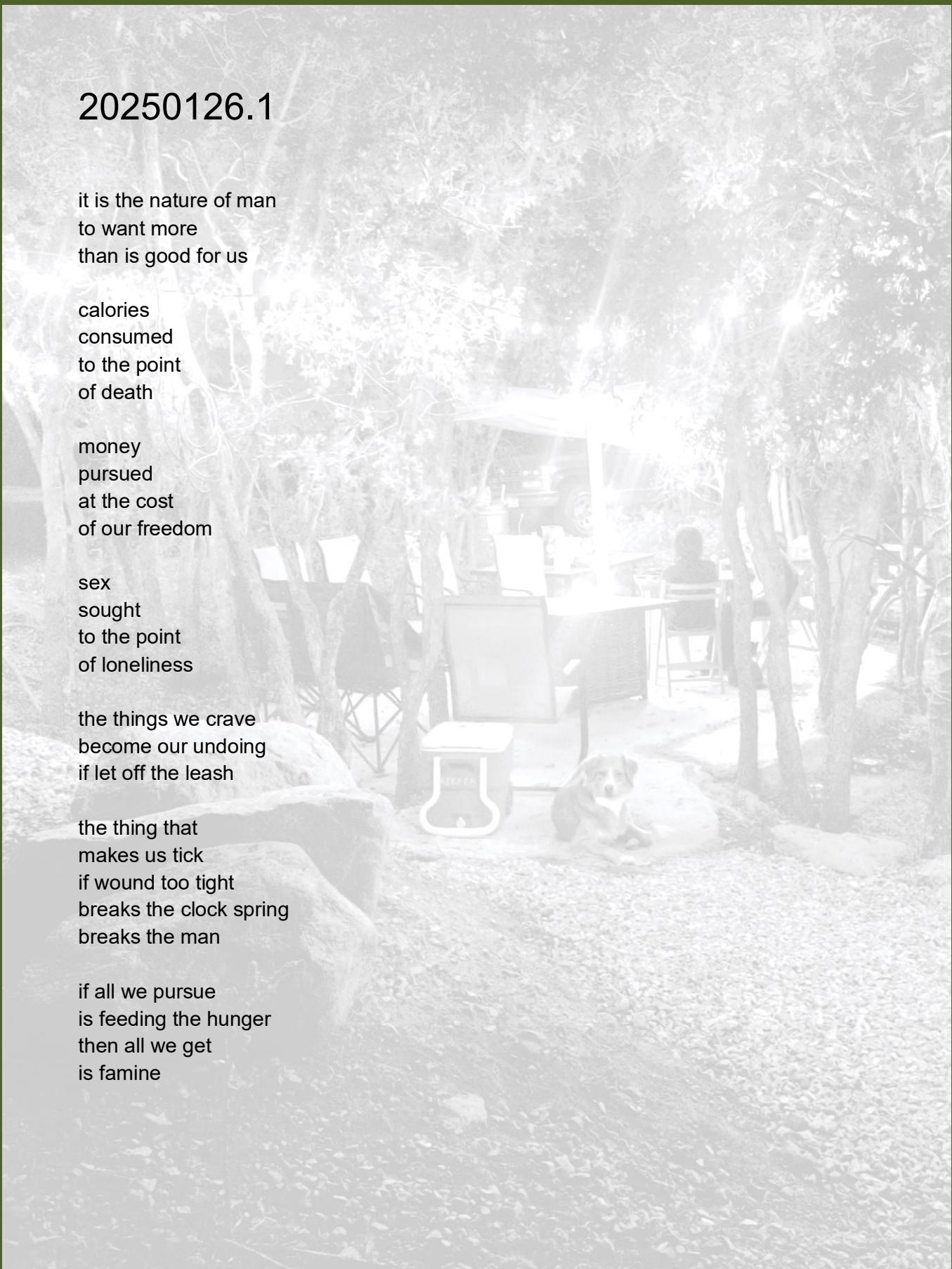
money  
pursued  
at the cost  
of our freedom

sex  
sought  
to the point  
of loneliness

the things we crave  
become our undoing  
if let off the leash

the thing that  
makes us tick  
if wound too tight  
breaks the clock spring  
breaks the man

if all we pursue  
is feeding the hunger  
then all we get  
is famine



## 20250128.1

the sun does not fight  
to rise in the morning

the sun does not fight  
to set in the evening

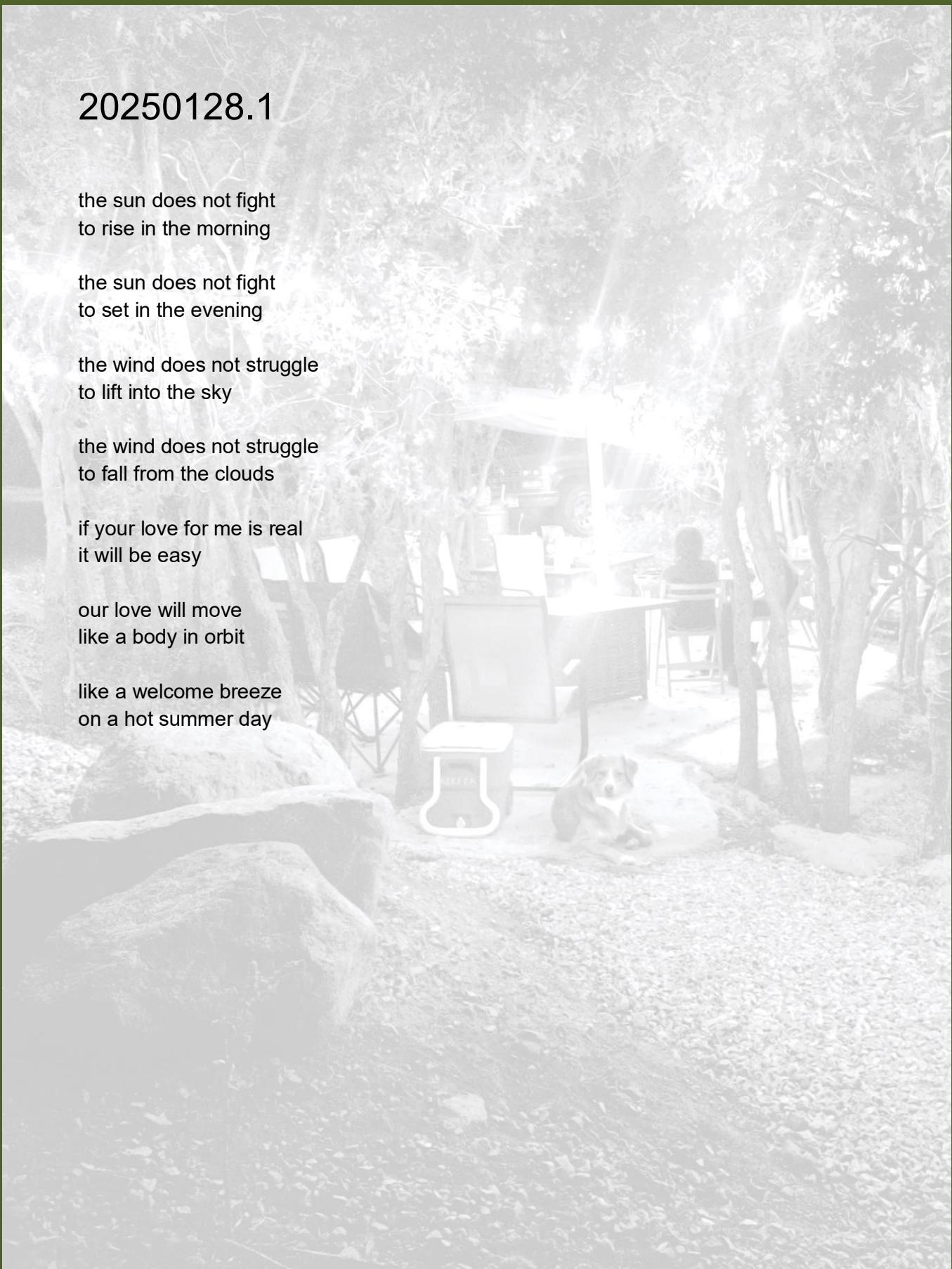
the wind does not struggle  
to lift into the sky

the wind does not struggle  
to fall from the clouds

if your love for me is real  
it will be easy

our love will move  
like a body in orbit

like a welcome breeze  
on a hot summer day



## 20250128.2

if i stand still

the crazy  
busy  
bullshitty  
business  
of the world

will race past me

never stopping to acknowledge  
me

it's the ego  
that wants to be seen  
to be acknowledged  
to be praised

what if  
I stand still  
and see what is before me  
and i acknowledge that

and the moment  
and i are one

is this validation enough

for me to say  
to nature  
to others

i see you

20250129.1

she sleeps  
in the heart of her castle  
her hounds encircle her bed  
sleeping on the floor

it is regal  
it is grand

why am I here

because

everyone needs love

even a queen  
needs a chest to sleep upon

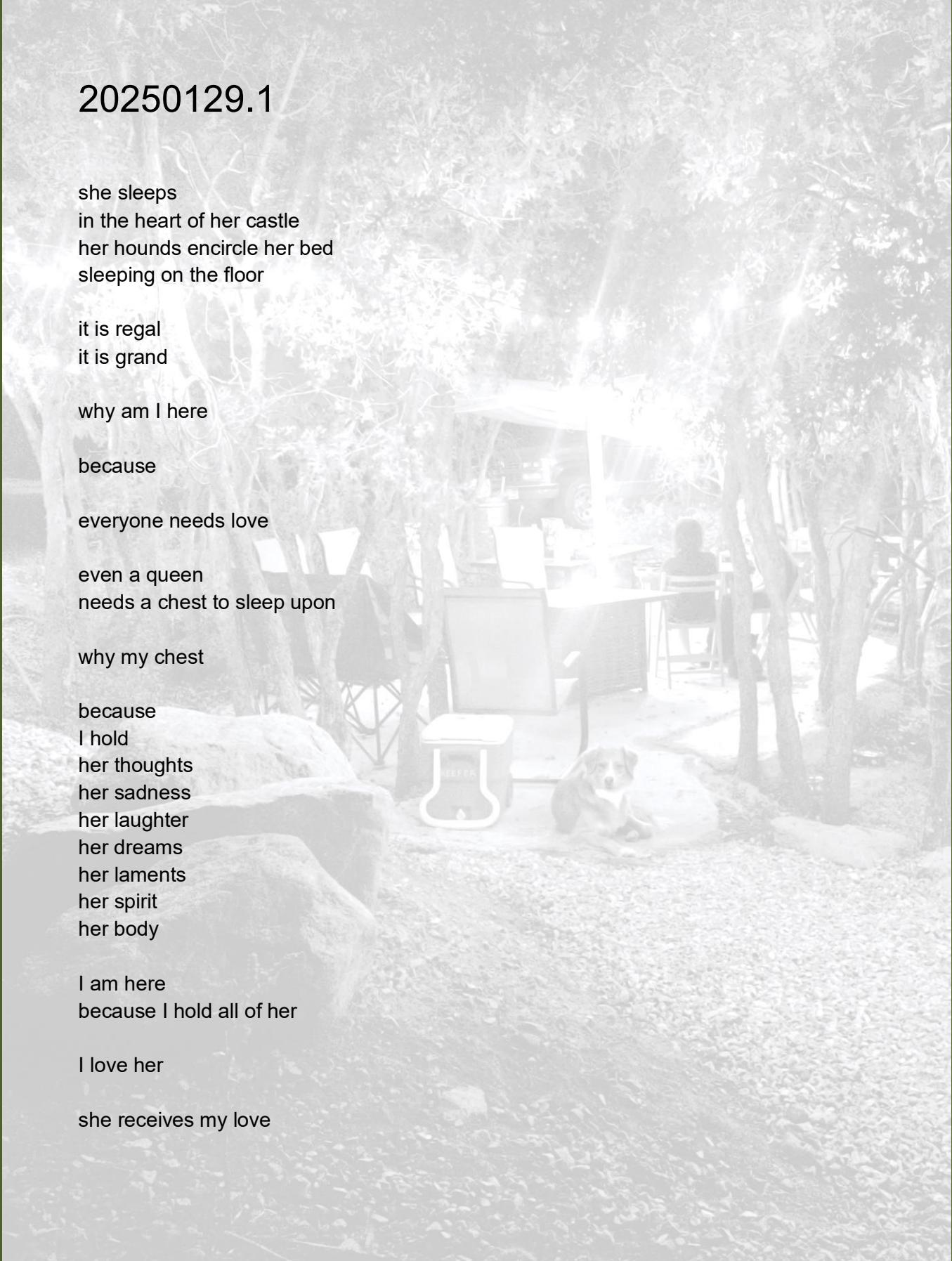
why my chest

because  
I hold  
her thoughts  
her sadness  
her laughter  
her dreams  
her laments  
her spirit  
her body

I am here  
because I hold all of her

I love her

she receives my love

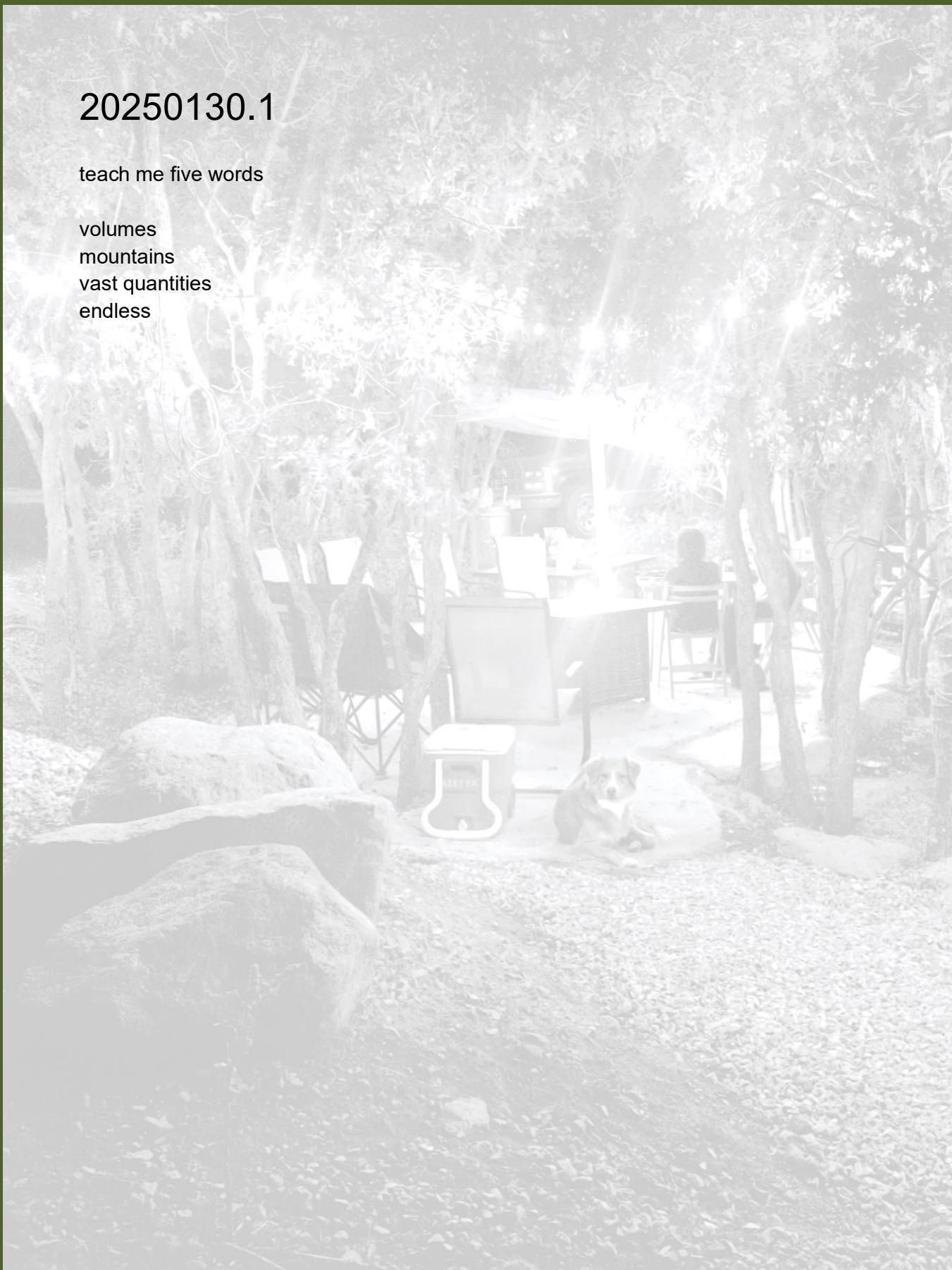




20250130.1

teach me five words

volumes  
mountains  
vast quantities  
endless



## 20250130.2

you love him

500% more than you love me

he's gone

not 'next town' gone

like, slipped this life  
into the ether  
gone

still

your heart pines  
for him

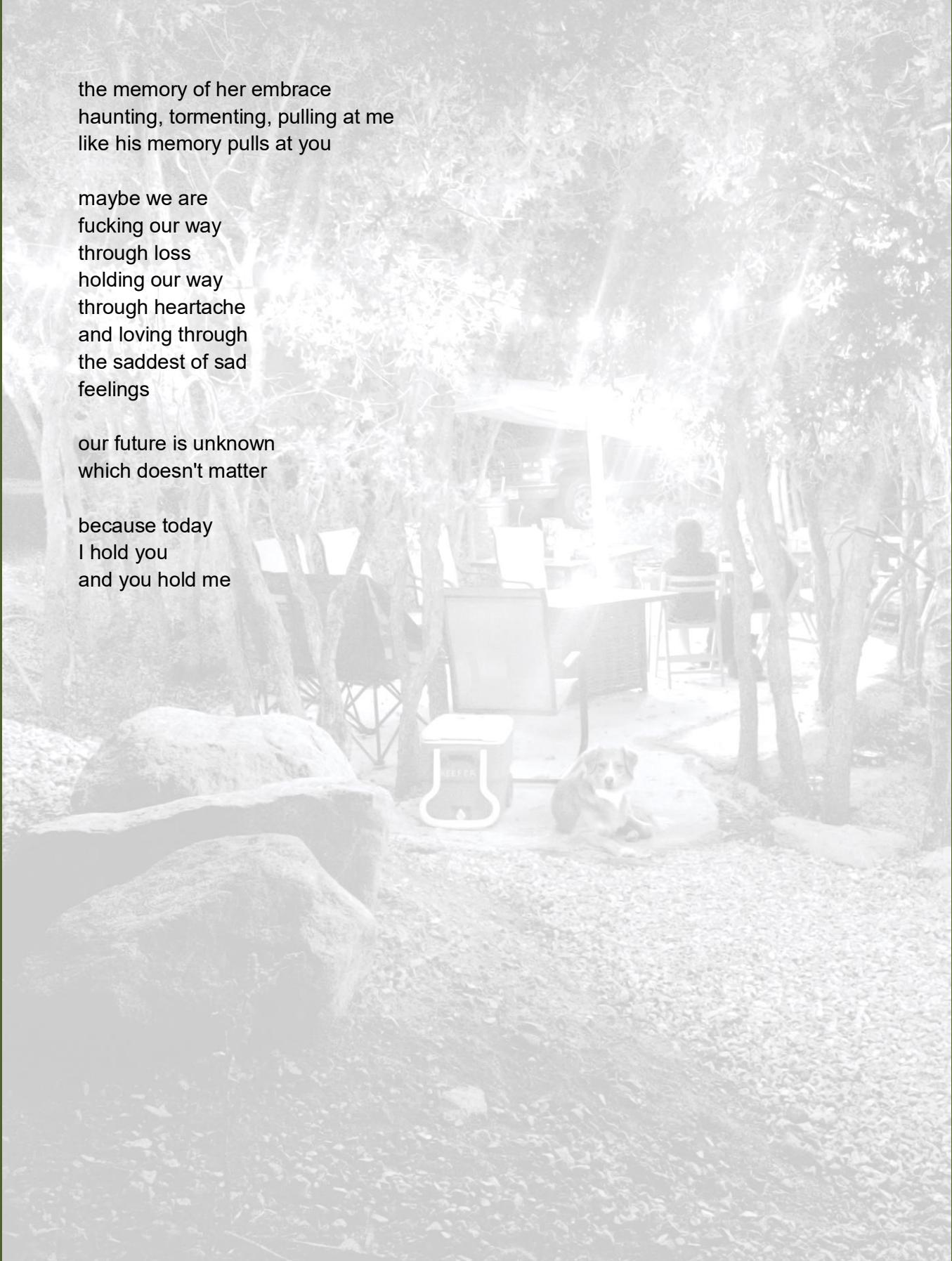
i showed up  
seven years too early

maybe a lifecycle  
too early

why am i here

is it sex  
is it company  
is it that word  
love  
that can mean so much  
or so little

maybe i'm here  
because i still  
miss her



the memory of her embrace  
haunting, tormenting, pulling at me  
like his memory pulls at you

maybe we are  
fucking our way  
through loss  
holding our way  
through heartache  
and loving through  
the saddest of sad  
feelings

our future is unknown  
which doesn't matter

because today  
I hold you  
and you hold me

20250130.3

it could be

the start

of something  
grand

it could be

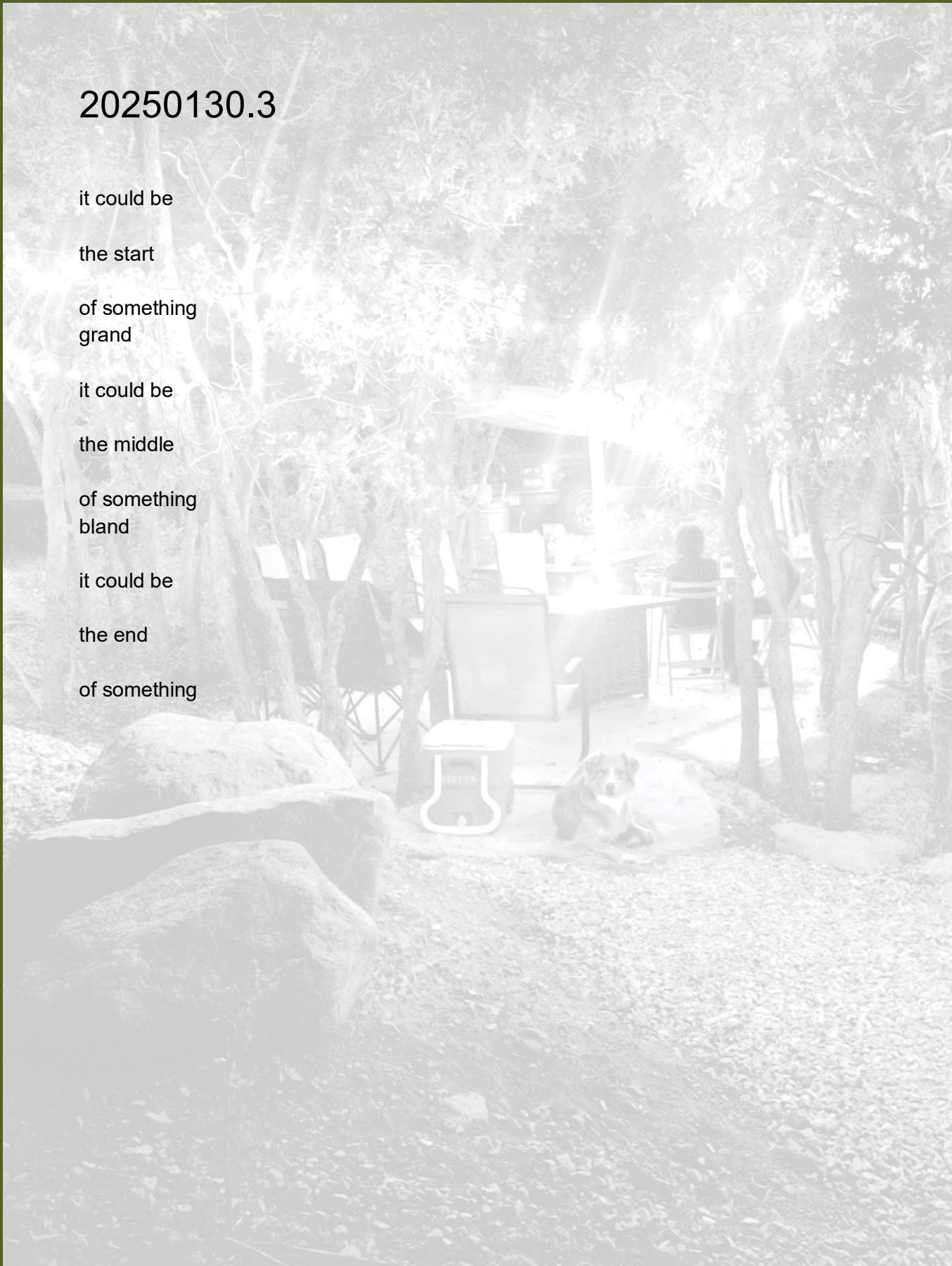
the middle

of something  
bland

it could be

the end

of something



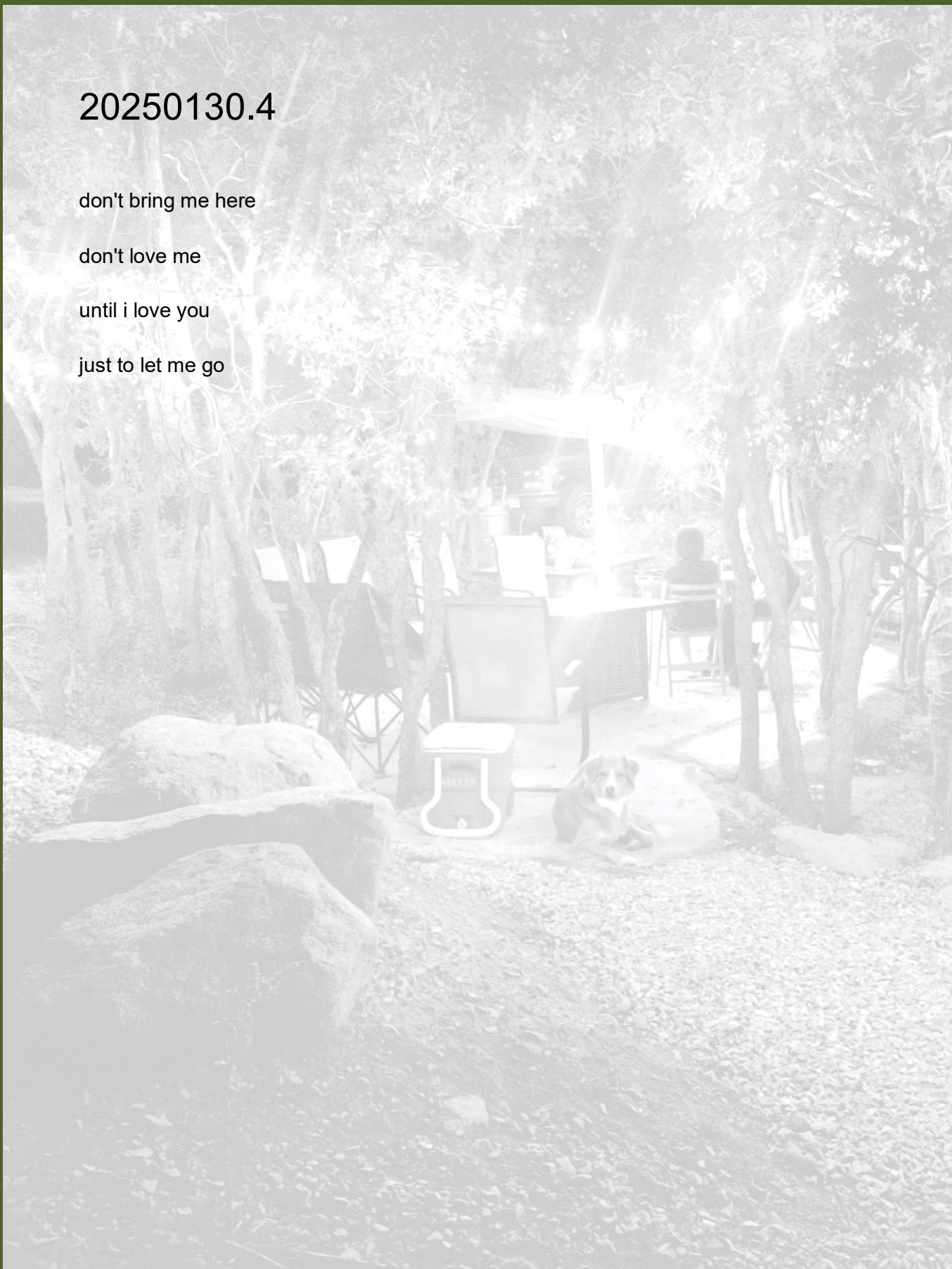
20250130.4

don't bring me here

don't love me

until i love you

just to let me go



## 20250130.5

i don't trust  
that she won't hurt me

i trust  
if she does hurt me

i trust  
myself

to handle  
that pain

to navigate  
that sadness

i trust  
myself

to move on  
go grow  
beyond her

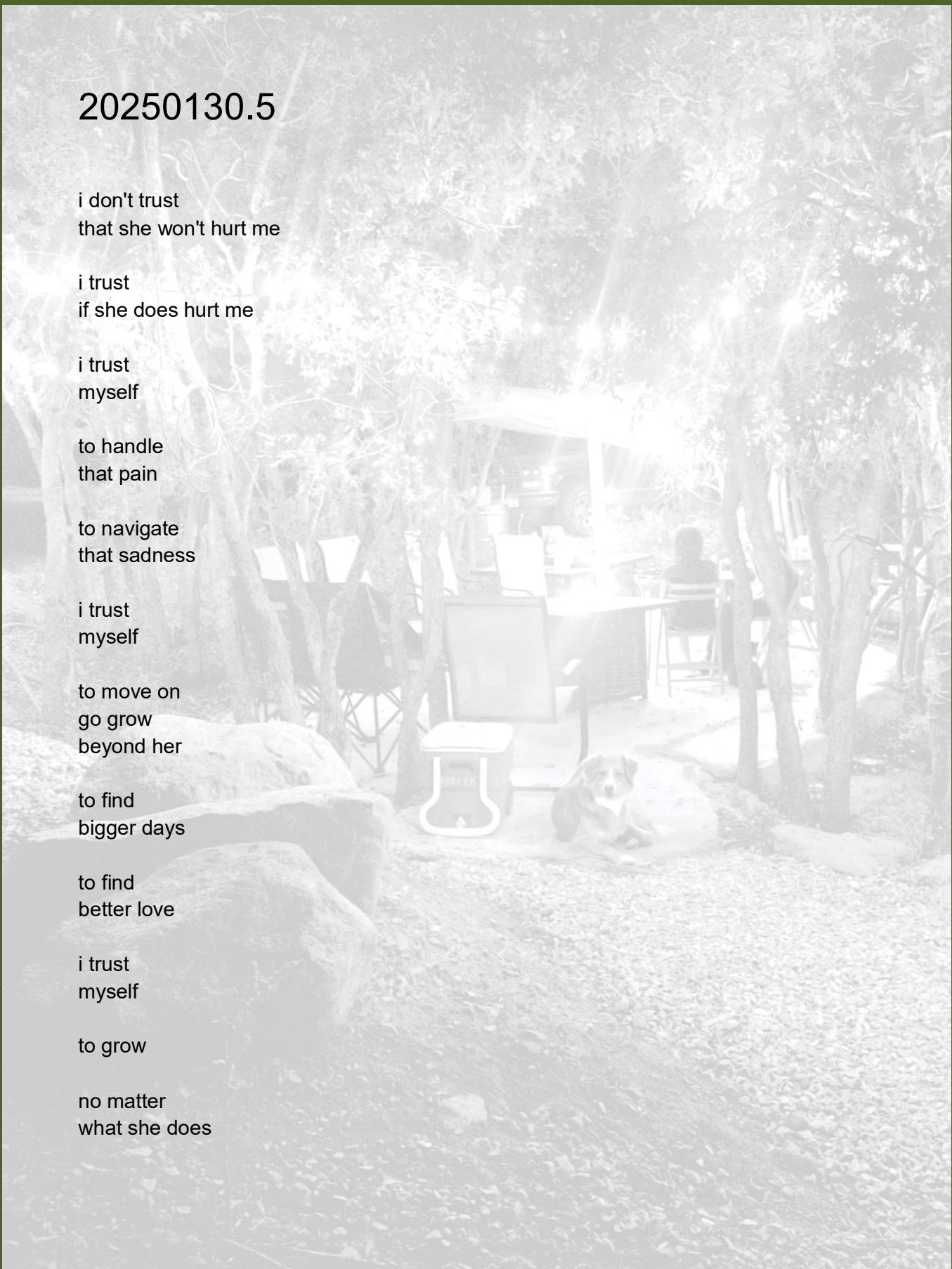
to find  
bigger days

to find  
better love

i trust  
myself

to grow

no matter  
what she does





## 20250202.1

yes  
i am frightened

economies  
risk of failure  
consequences  
of not being amazing

i am also old  
seasoned

i am nosferatu  
when measured in children years

so old  
i measure problems  
in half decades

i work out solutions  
that span far into the future

i know  
it won't play out that way  
that the future will change  
before my plans are fulfilled

that change  
will visit me  
like time visits everyone

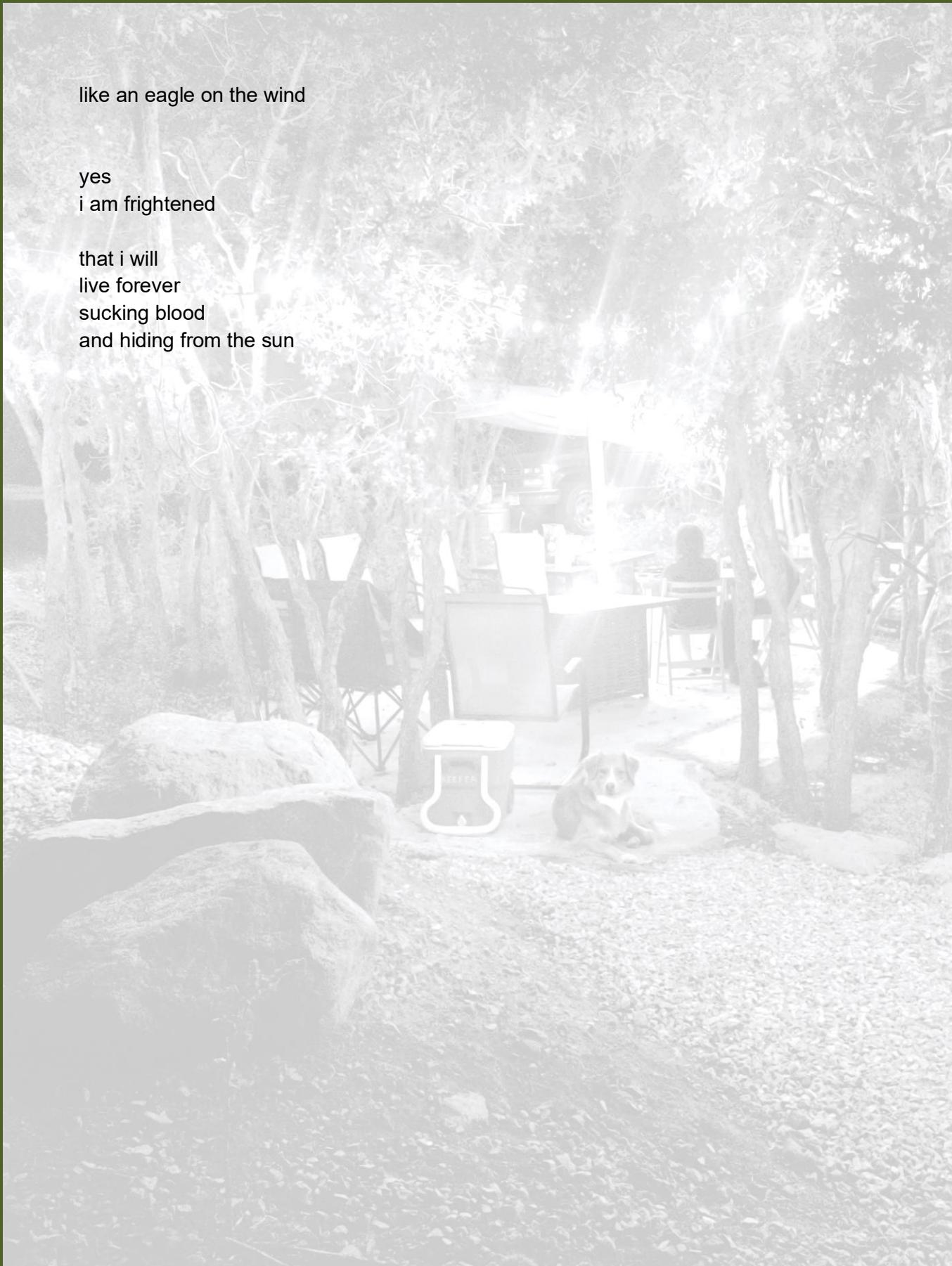
and i will  
bend  
like the trees bend  
i will curve  
like the creek curves  
and i will rise



like an eagle on the wind

yes  
i am frightened

that i will  
live forever  
sucking blood  
and hiding from the sun



## 20250205.1

my body  
does what bodies do

my mind  
goes where thoughts go

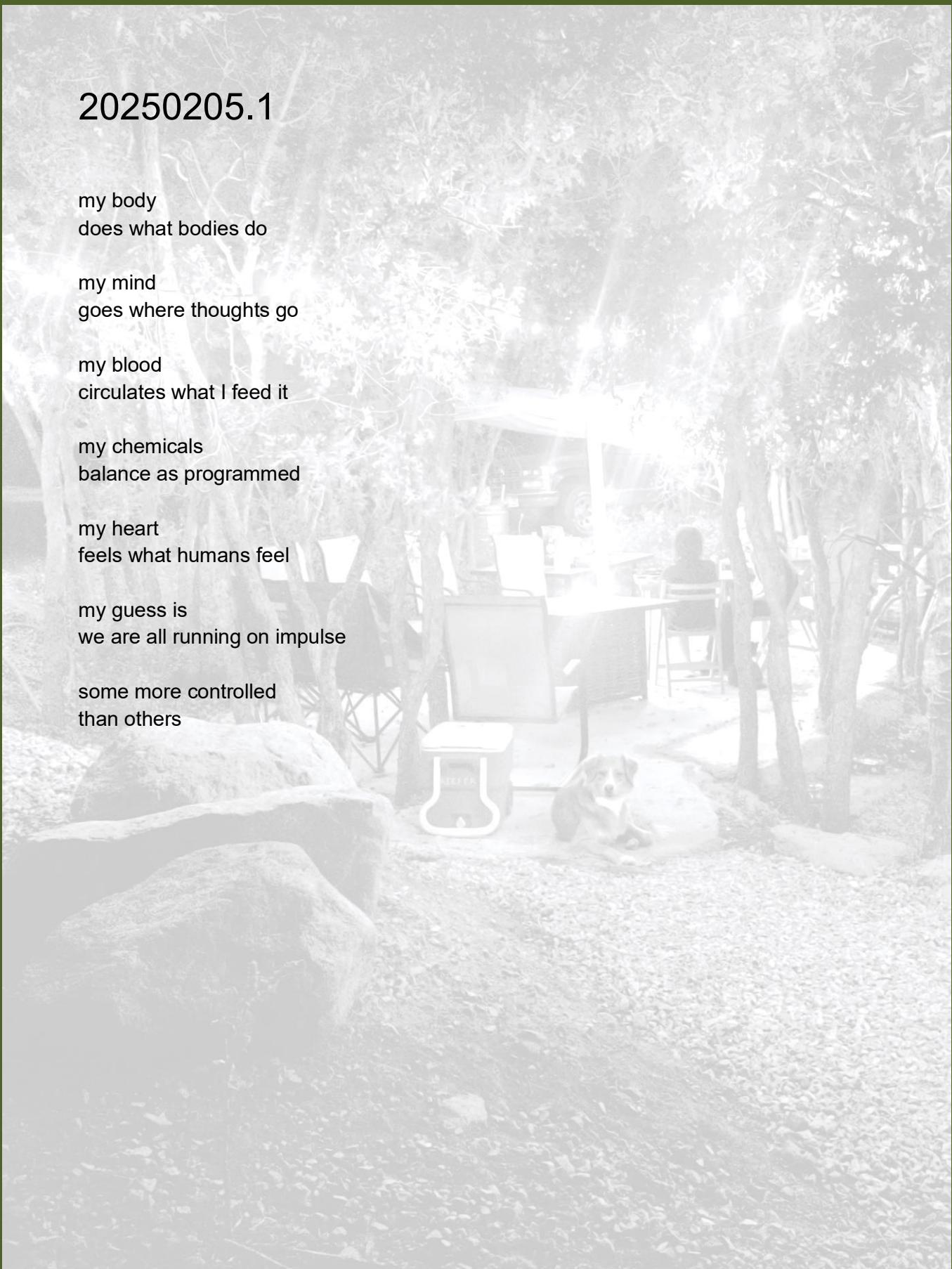
my blood  
circulates what I feed it

my chemicals  
balance as programmed

my heart  
feels what humans feel

my guess is  
we are all running on impulse

some more controlled  
than others



## 20250211.1

i was there  
to break your fall

i was there  
to help you crawl

now  
the pain  
further gone

now  
your heart  
further healed

your head  
held higher

your life  
stronger

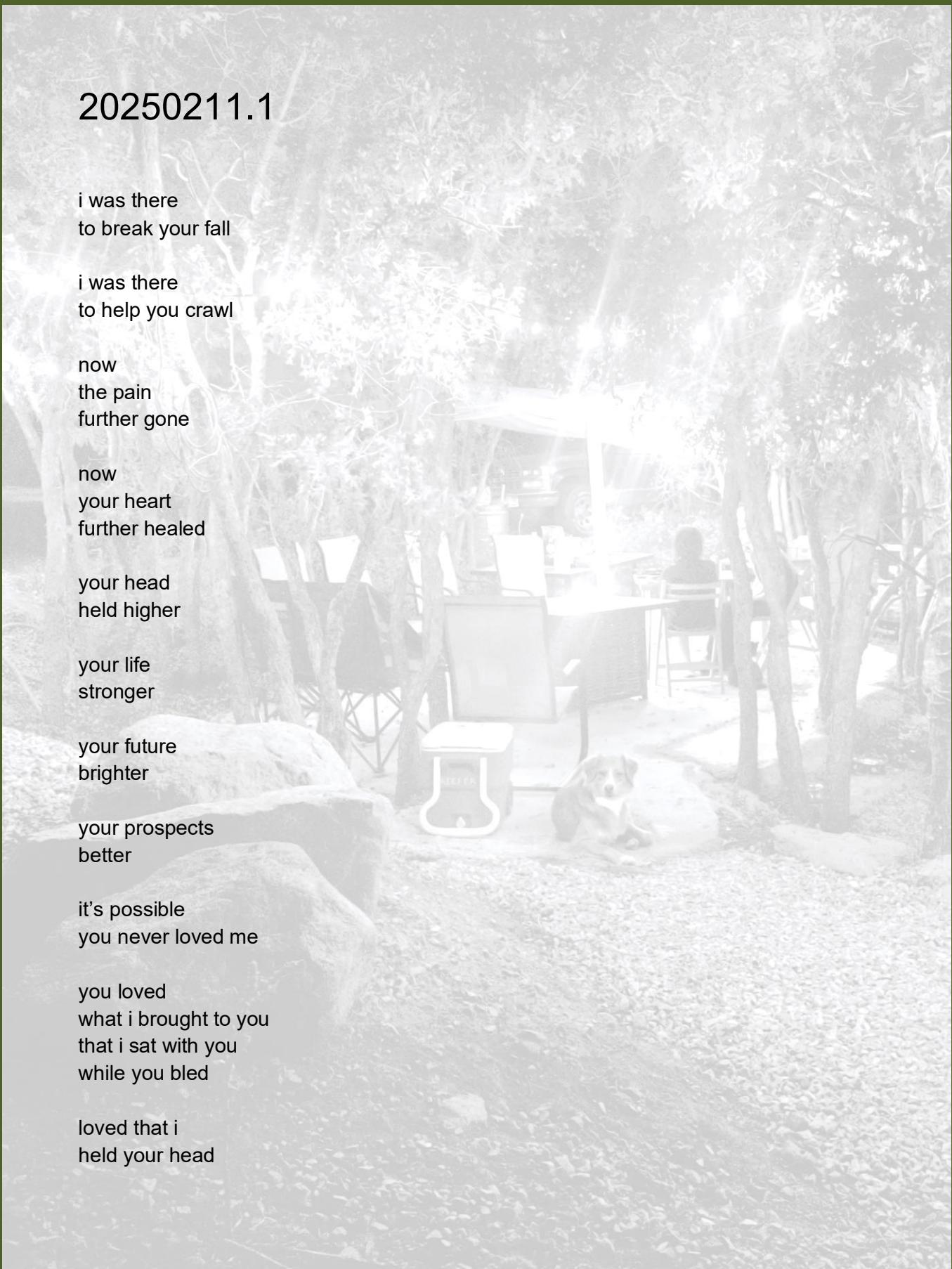
your future  
brighter

your prospects  
better

it's possible  
you never loved me

you loved  
what i brought to you  
that i sat with you  
while you bled

loved that i  
held your head

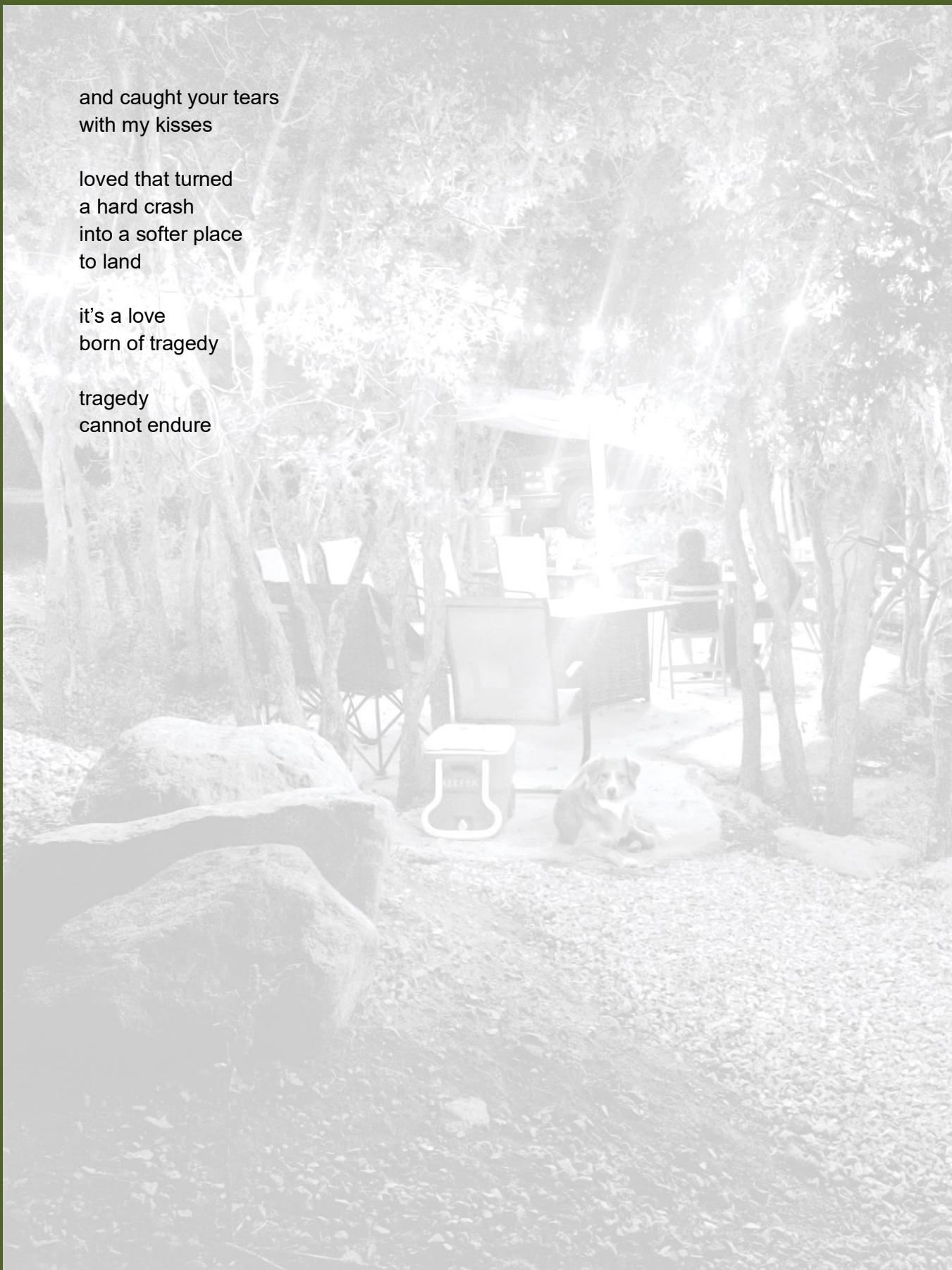


and caught your tears  
with my kisses

loved that turned  
a hard crash  
into a softer place  
to land

it's a love  
born of tragedy

tragedy  
cannot endure



## 20250212.1

at the pool  
after bicycle riding  
around the island  
and lunch on the wharf

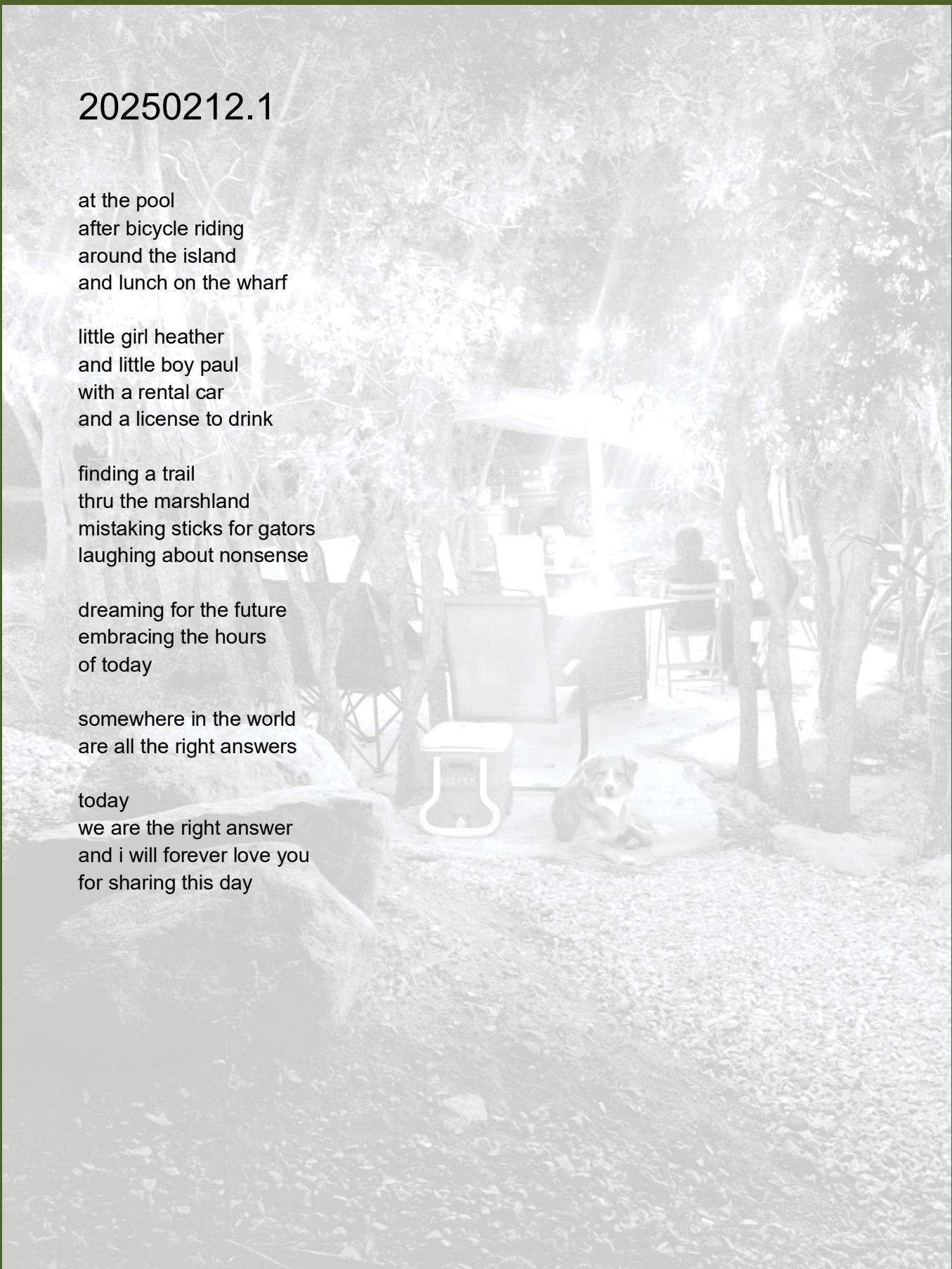
little girl heather  
and little boy paul  
with a rental car  
and a license to drink

finding a trail  
thru the marshland  
mistaking sticks for gators  
laughing about nonsense

dreaming for the future  
embracing the hours  
of today

somewhere in the world  
are all the right answers

today  
we are the right answer  
and i will forever love you  
for sharing this day



20250213.1

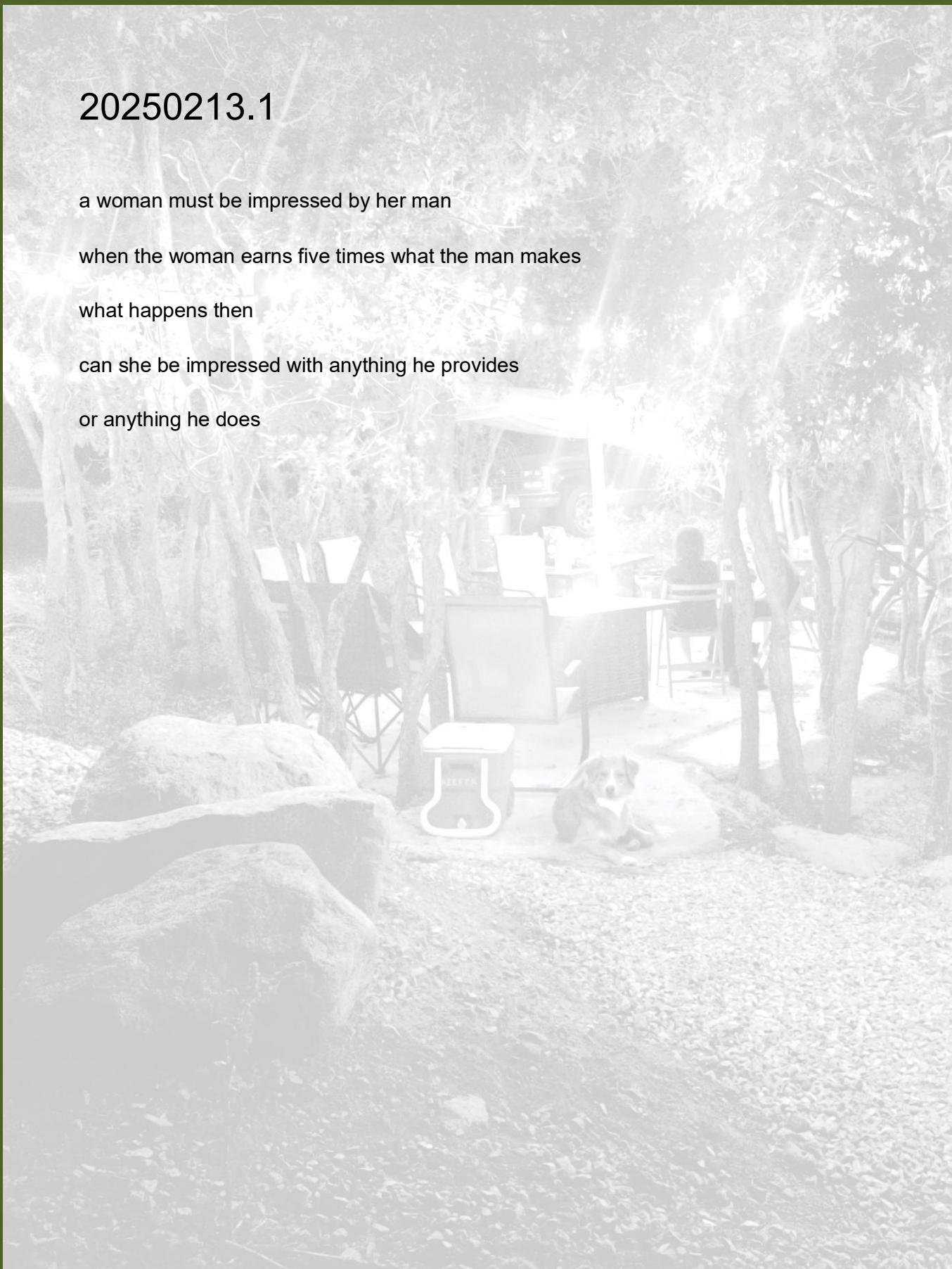
a woman must be impressed by her man

when the woman earns five times what the man makes

what happens then

can she be impressed with anything he provides

or anything he does



20250213.2

dear god

forgive me my sins  
my flaws  
that if i listed them  
would find no end

help me forgive others  
and give them my grace  
to be flawed themselves

may everyone have space to grow  
may everyone win in their own lives

help me release resentment  
hold no grudge  
against no person

then  
dear god  
open my eyes  
to see the light

help that light  
dwell in me  
to shine  
like a lighthouse  
upon waters

may i be  
a new creature in thee  
may i walk this day  
in god



## 20250219.1

I feel them  
spirits

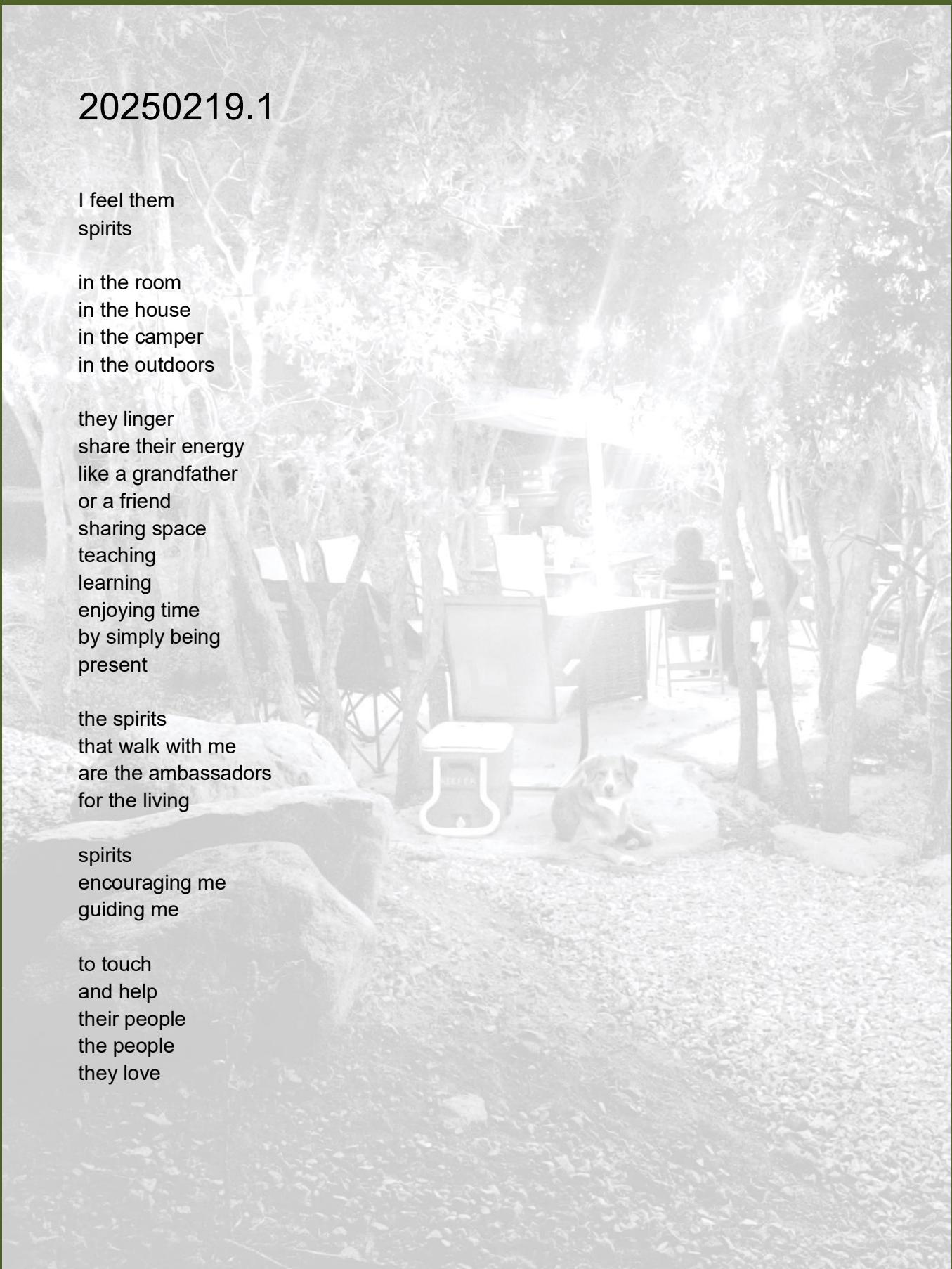
in the room  
in the house  
in the camper  
in the outdoors

they linger  
share their energy  
like a grandfather  
or a friend  
sharing space  
teaching  
learning  
enjoying time  
by simply being  
present

the spirits  
that walk with me  
are the ambassadors  
for the living

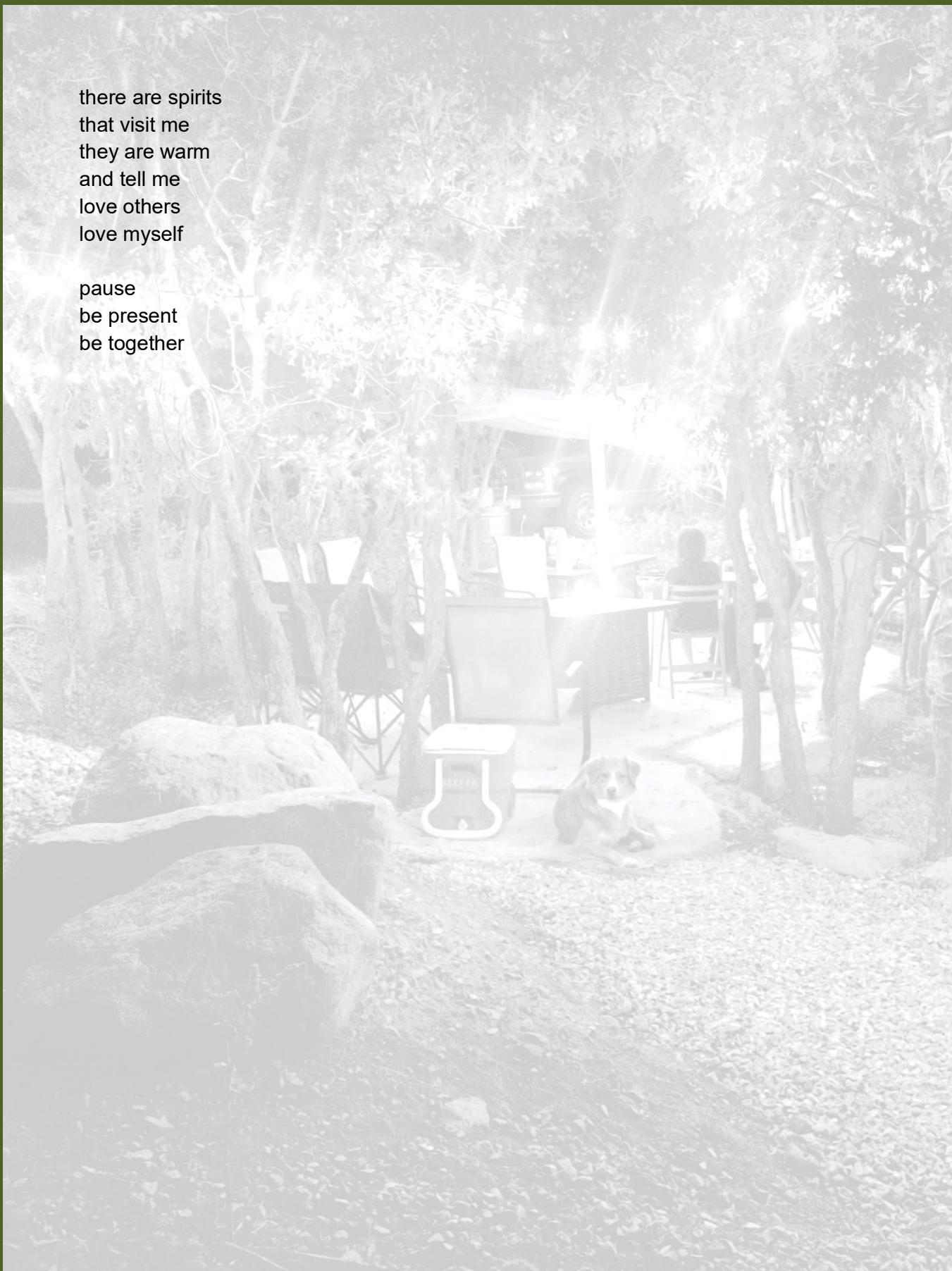
spirits  
encouraging me  
guiding me

to touch  
and help  
their people  
the people  
they love



there are spirits  
that visit me  
they are warm  
and tell me  
love others  
love myself

pause  
be present  
be together



20250219.2

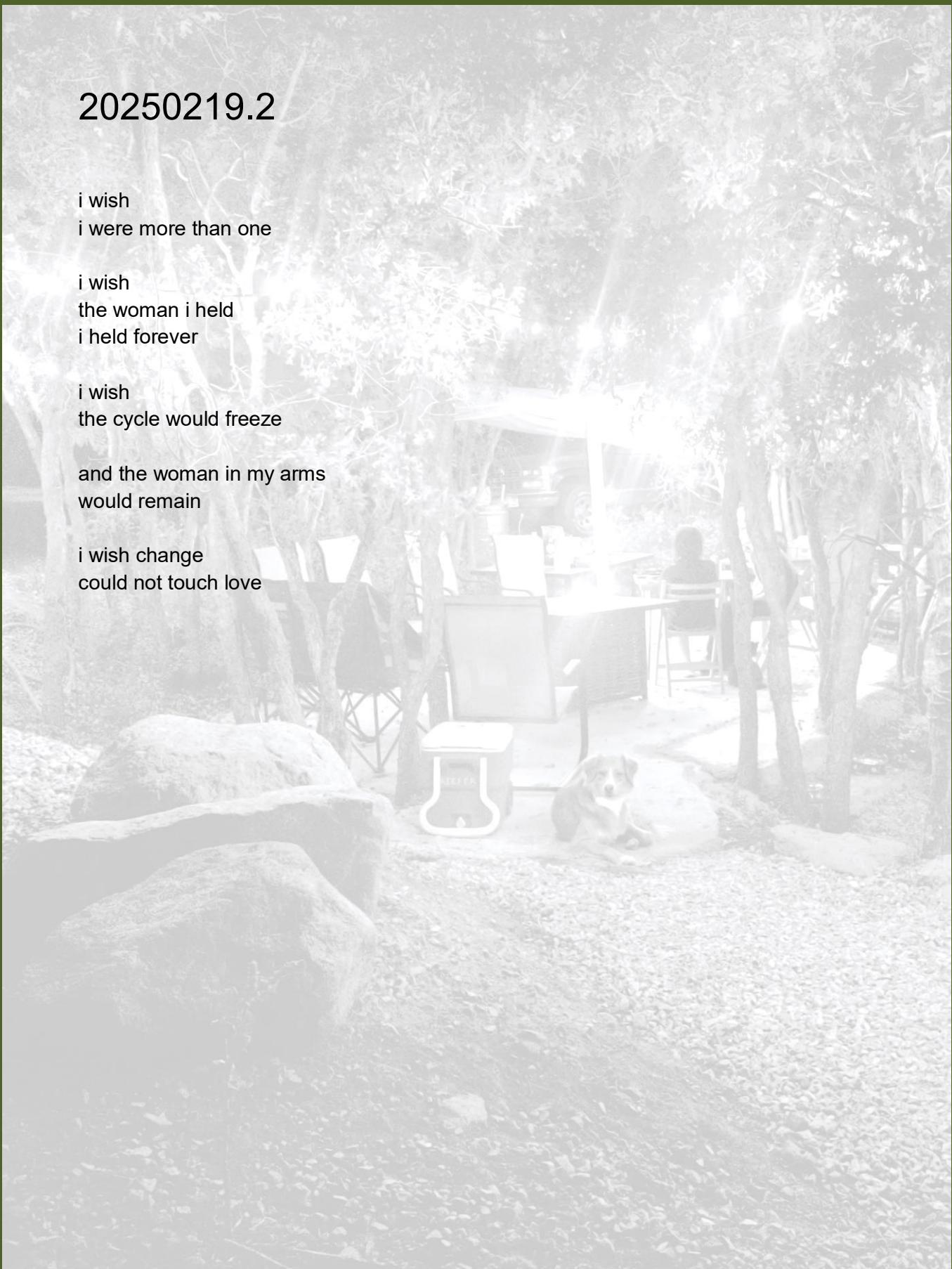
i wish  
i were more than one

i wish  
the woman i held  
i held forever

i wish  
the cycle would freeze

and the woman in my arms  
would remain

i wish change  
could not touch love



## 20250219.3

every memory  
boat on water  
body in camper  
boots on dirt  
hand in hand  
head on chest

door shutting  
phone not ringing

mixed inside  
wanting to hide

nowhere to go

just dredging  
decayed bodies  
rotting reflections  
of happy moments  
long gone

fertilizer  
for today's motivations  
mechanisms for new growth

don't eat the fertilizer  
but  
let it turn today's grass green

## 20250221.1

there is nothing interesting

social media  
news  
books  
tv  
music

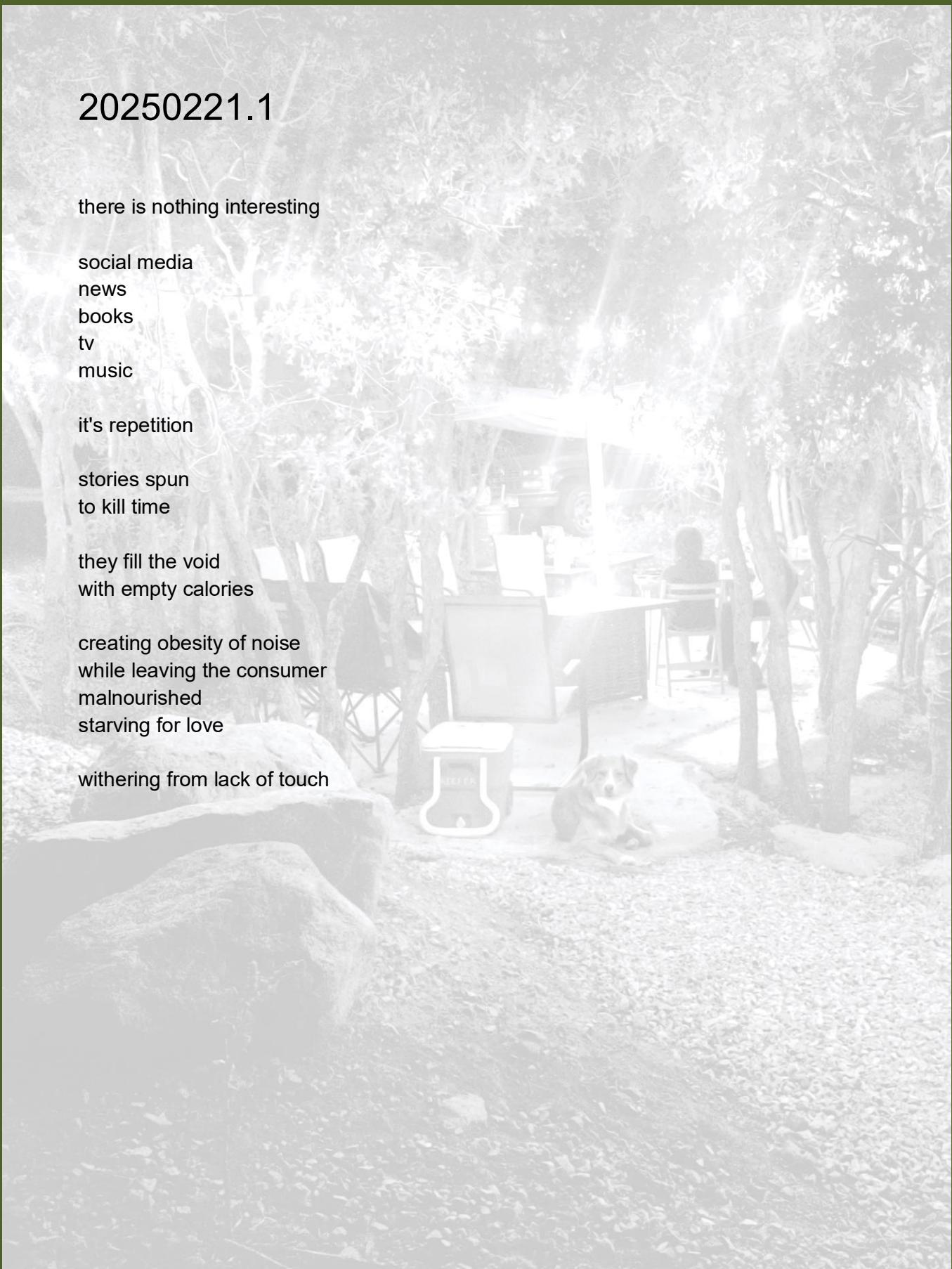
it's repetition

stories spun  
to kill time

they fill the void  
with empty calories

creating obesity of noise  
while leaving the consumer  
malnourished  
starving for love

withering from lack of touch



## 20250221.2

her terms

my terms

yes, we love

the terms may not agree

time will tell

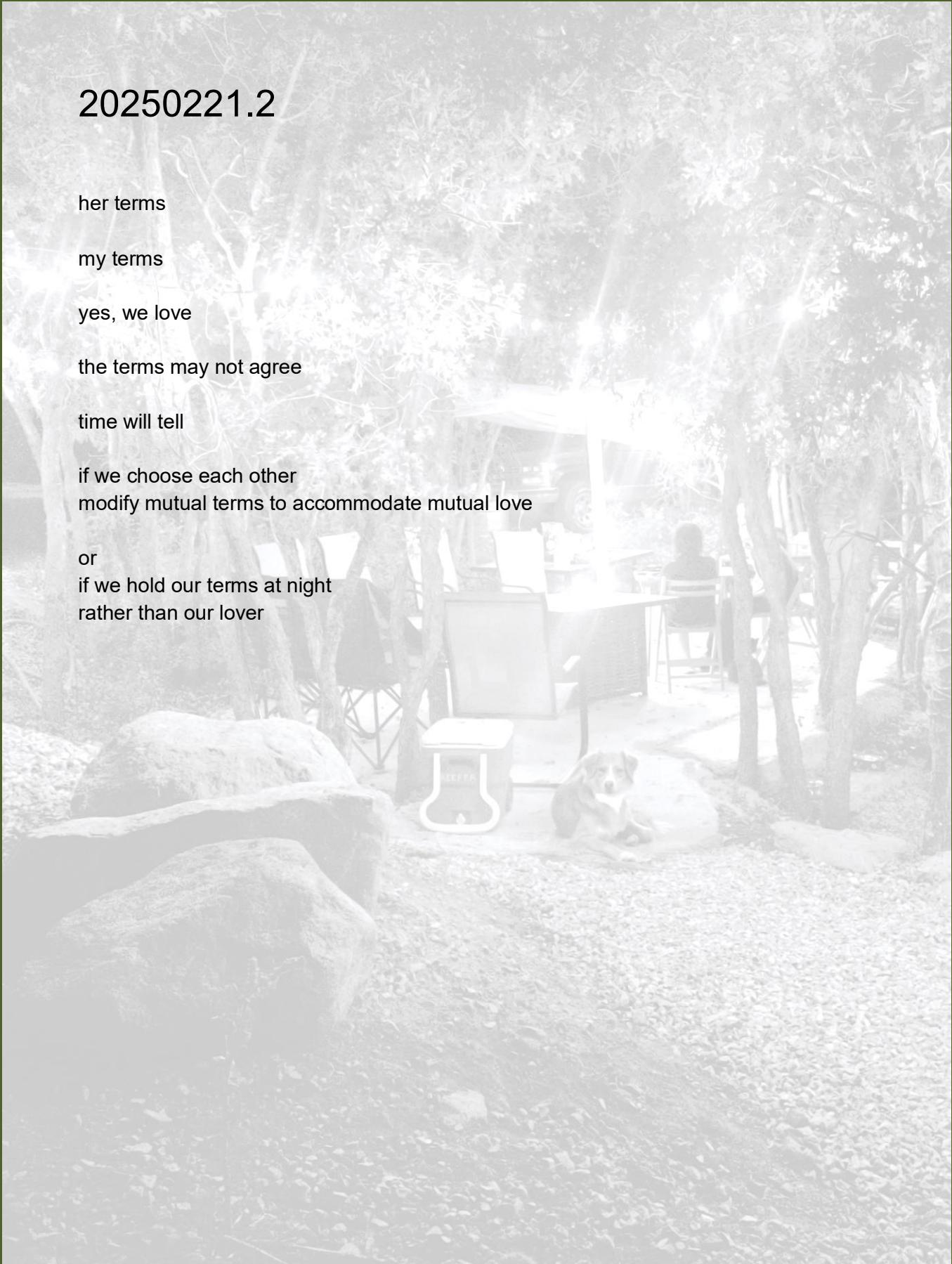
if we choose each other

modify mutual terms to accommodate mutual love

or

if we hold our terms at night

rather than our lover



## 20250226.1

i was driving  
she said out loud

are you good enough looking to be dating me

it wasn't a question

it was a vocalization

of a conclusion she

had already made

'are you'

was really

'you aren't'

we flew out a few days later  
everything previously booked  
time off work scheduled  
dog sitter and ex parent on deck

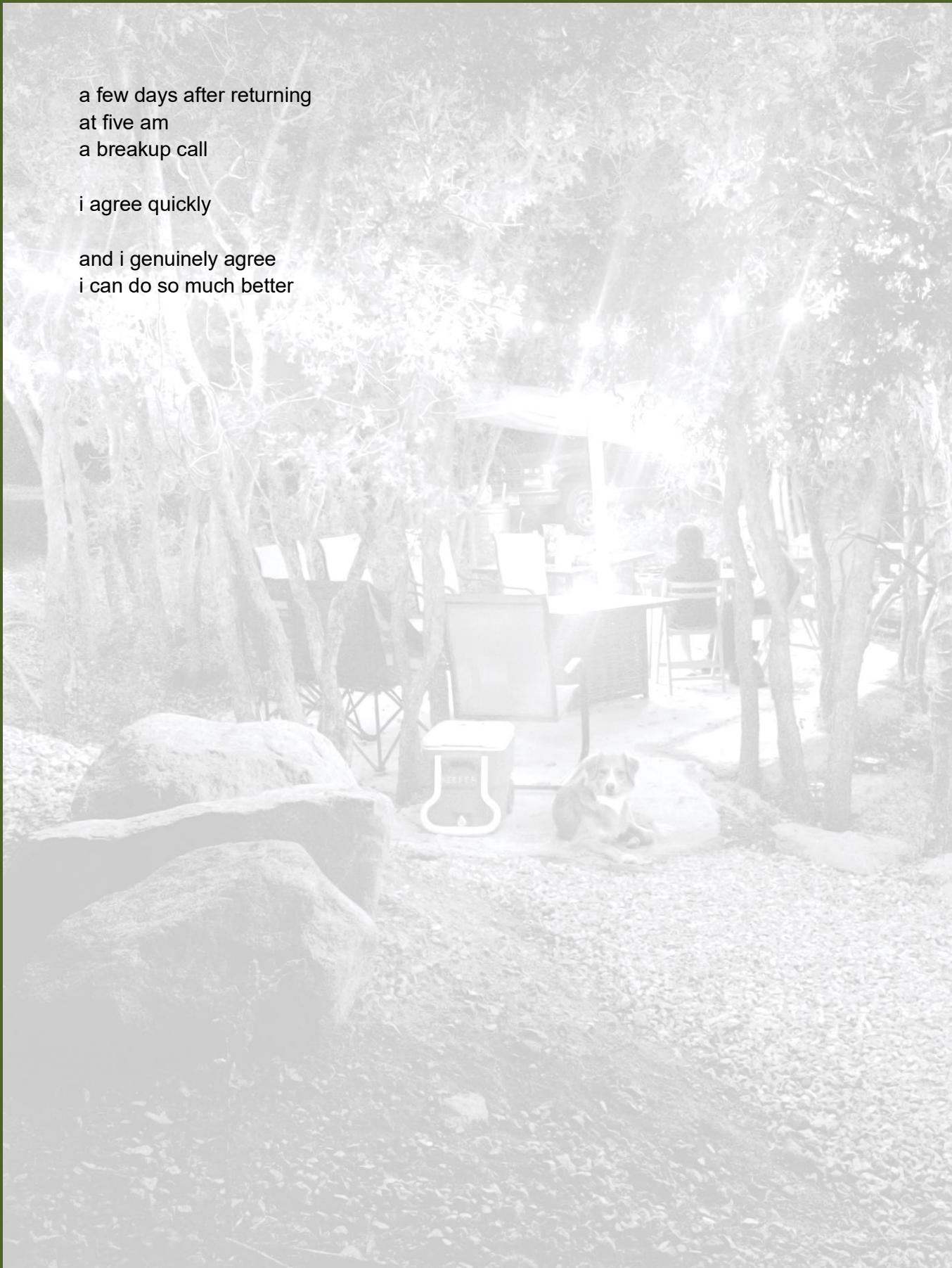
she suffered the days  
flat affect  
emotionally blunt  
socially reduced  
refusing happiness  
pushing out joy  
recoiling  
retreating  
into herself



a few days after returning  
at five am  
a breakup call

i agree quickly

and i genuinely agree  
i can do so much better



## 20250226.2

what if all I ever have

were the women I have already had

would it be sufficient

the passion  
the beauty

the hands held  
if only for a time

is it sufficient  
to be loved  
for a time

and not be loved  
all the time

is it good  
to be a lover in many stories

if your own story is longer  
than all your lover stories  
combined

that's a lot  
of lonely years

20250302.1

it's gone sideways

no, not her  
that was always tenuous

IT

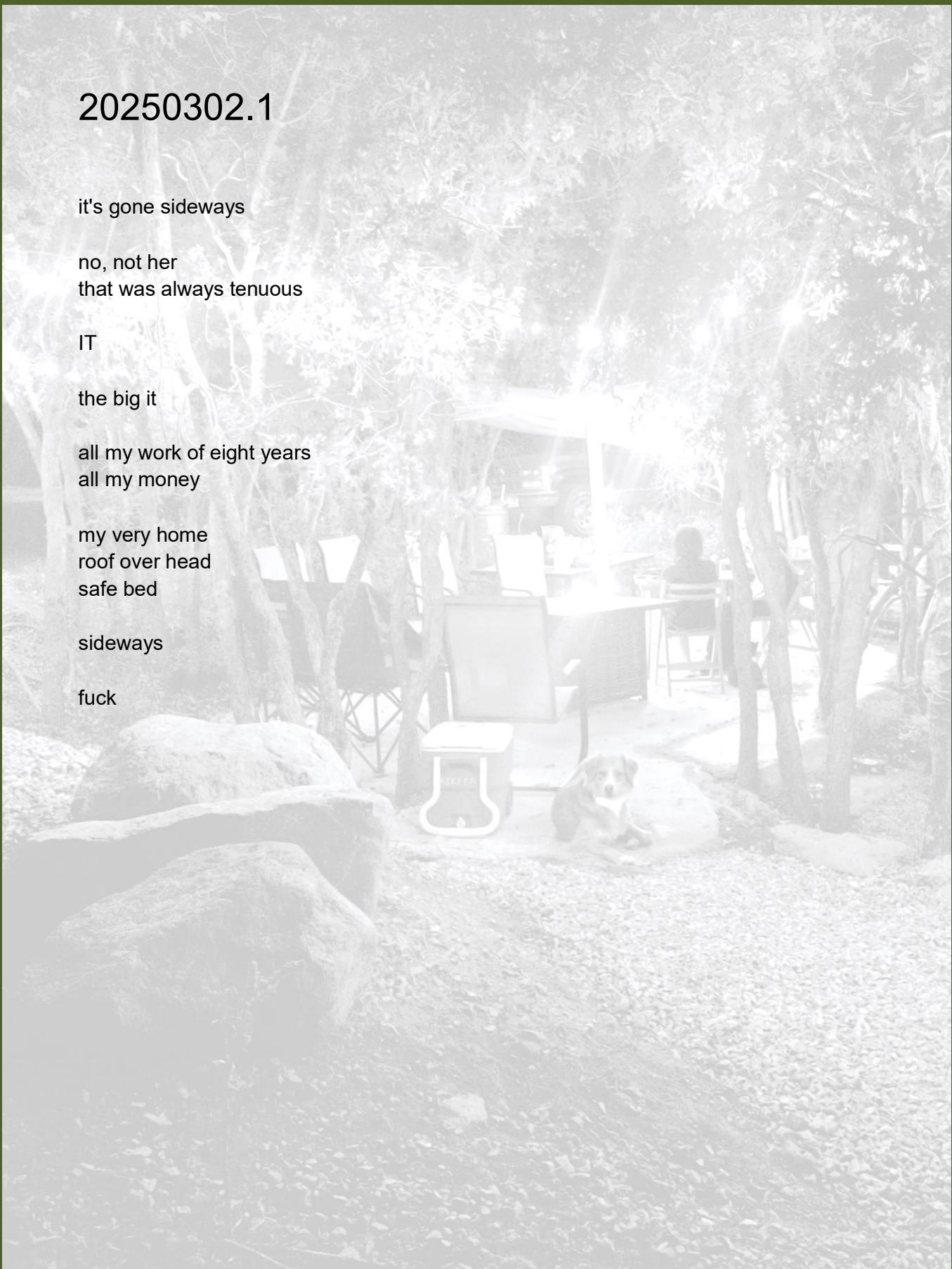
the big it

all my work of eight years  
all my money

my very home  
roof over head  
safe bed

sideways

fuck



20250303.1

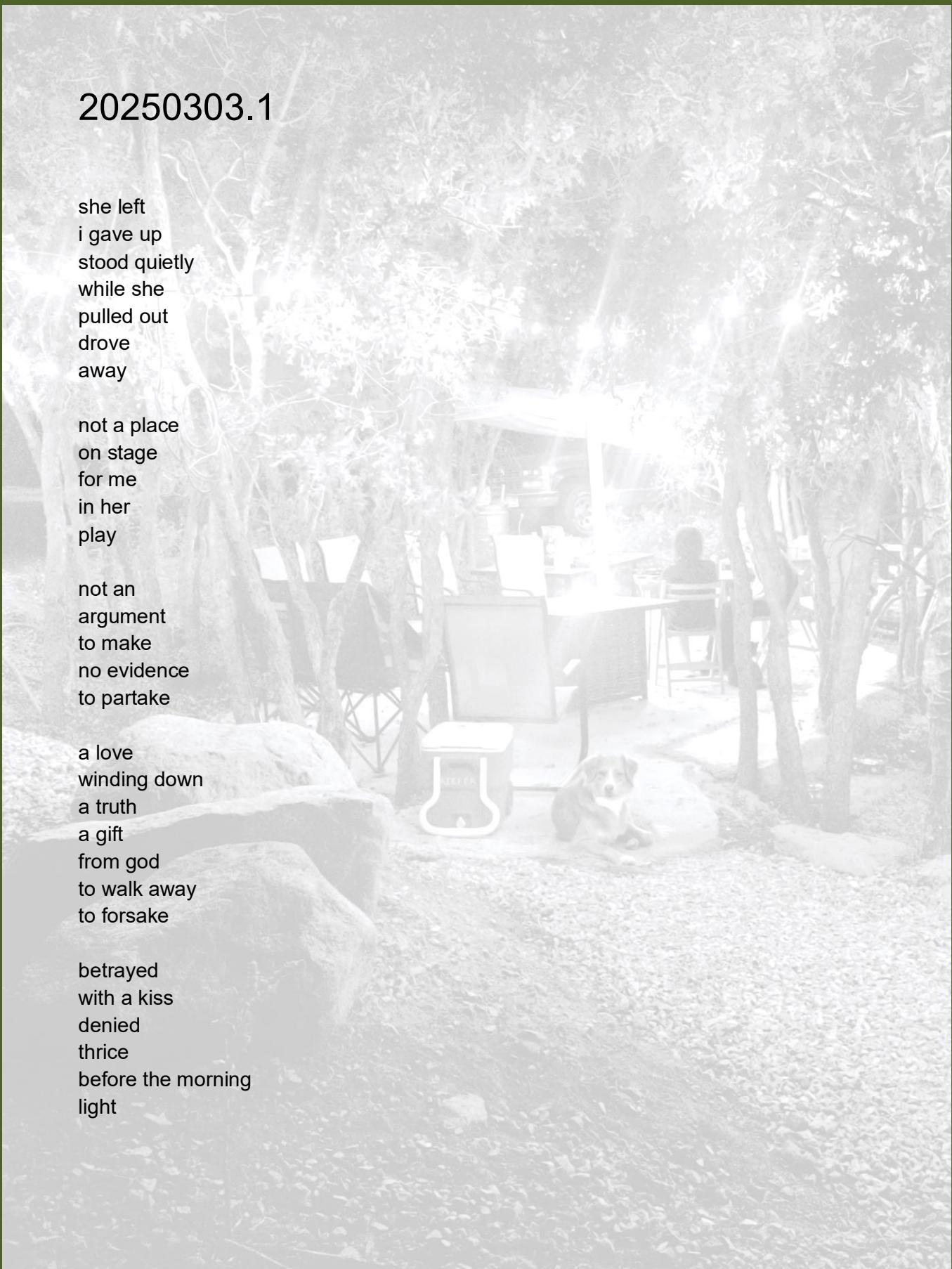
she left  
i gave up  
stood quietly  
while she  
pulled out  
drove  
away

not a place  
on stage  
for me  
in her  
play

not an  
argument  
to make  
no evidence  
to partake

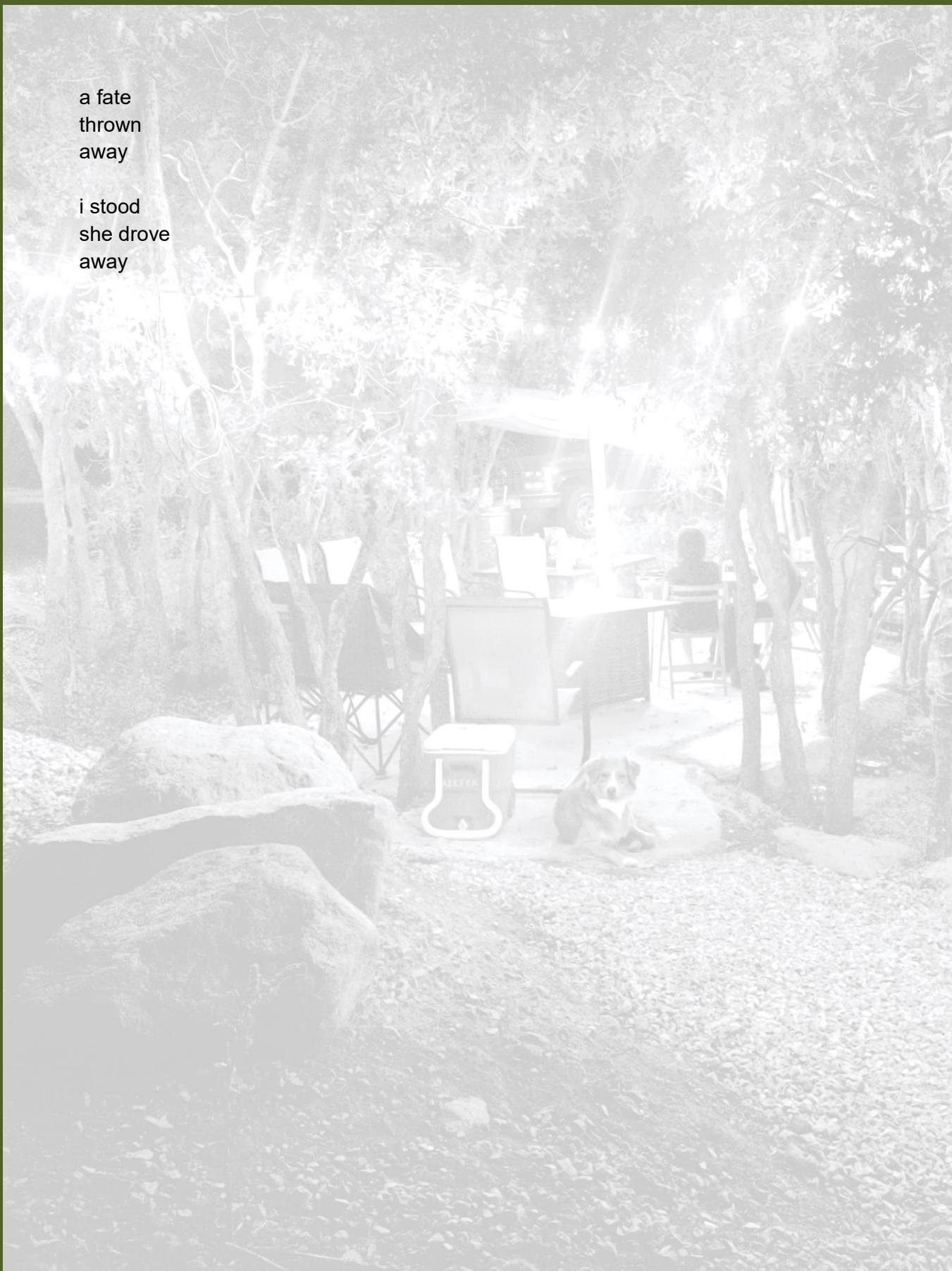
a love  
winding down  
a truth  
a gift  
from god  
to walk away  
to forsake

betrayed  
with a kiss  
denied  
thrice  
before the morning  
light



a fate  
thrown  
away

i stood  
she drove  
away



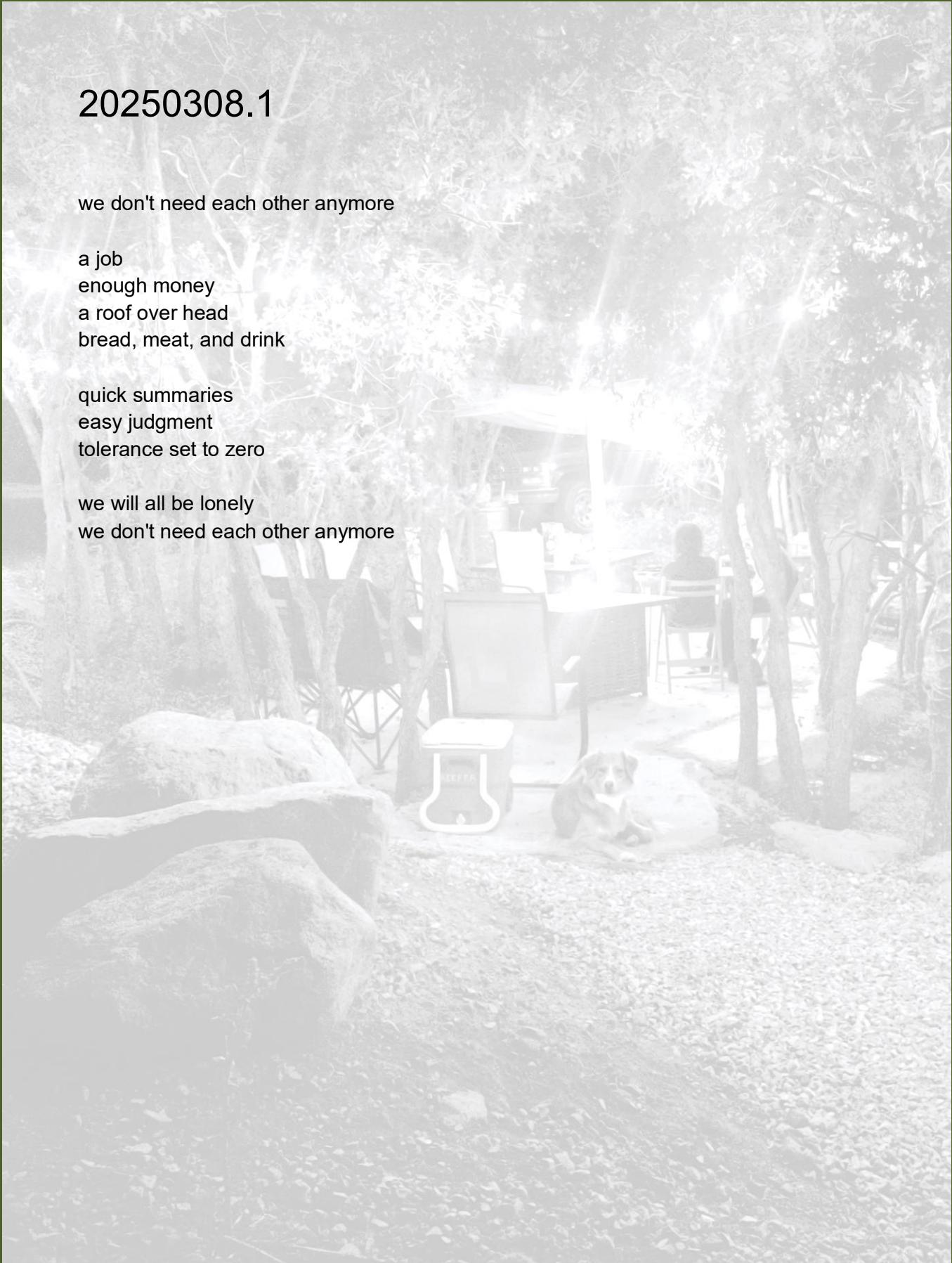
20250308.1

we don't need each other anymore

a job  
enough money  
a roof over head  
bread, meat, and drink

quick summaries  
easy judgment  
tolerance set to zero

we will all be lonely  
we don't need each other anymore



20250308.2

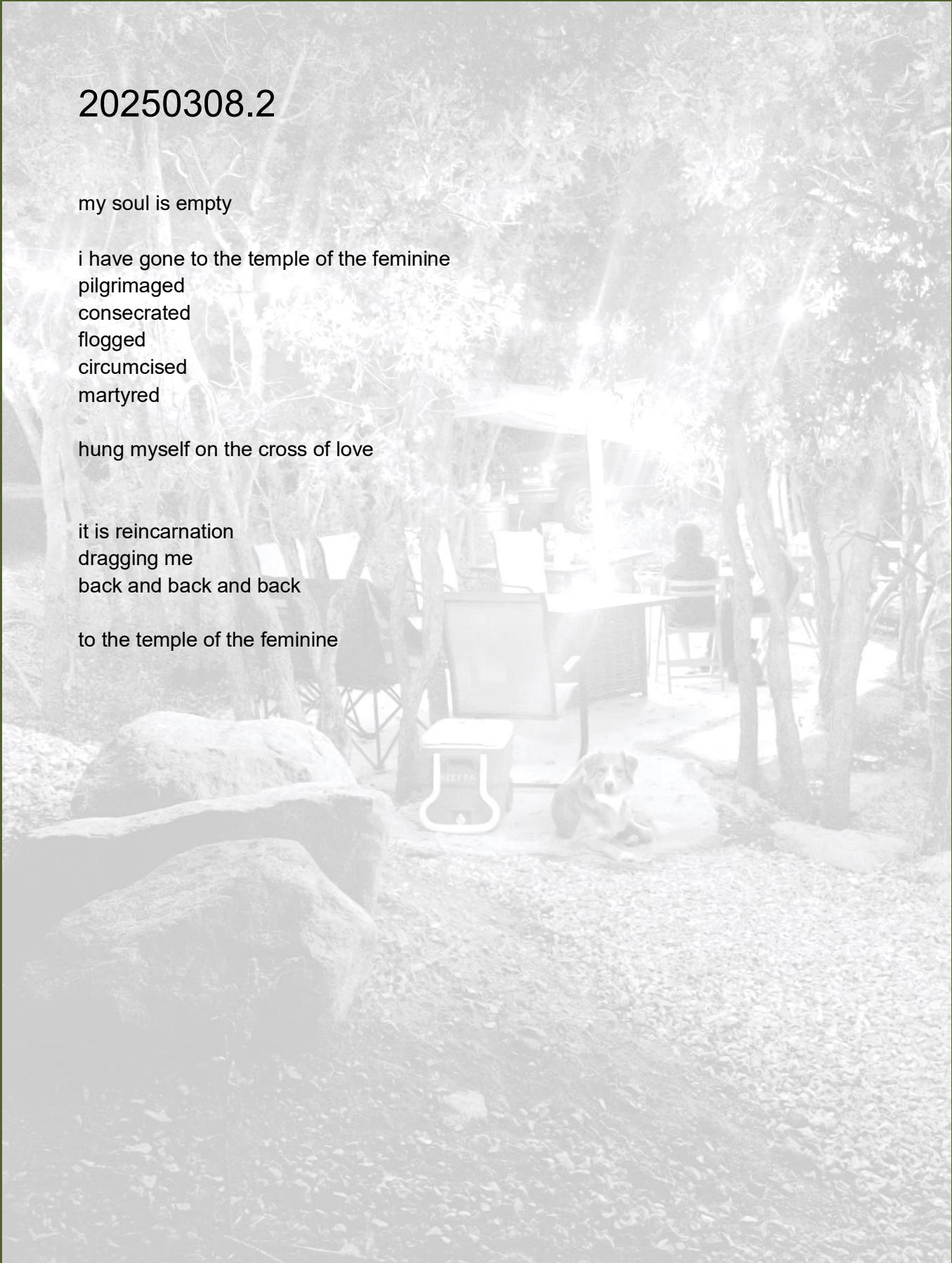
my soul is empty

i have gone to the temple of the feminine  
pilgrimage  
consecrated  
flogged  
circumcised  
martyred

hung myself on the cross of love

it is reincarnation  
dragging me  
back and back and back

to the temple of the feminine



## 20250314.1

runs great  
has a couple quirks  
but nothing major

paint is in good condition  
some oxidizing  
and a few dings

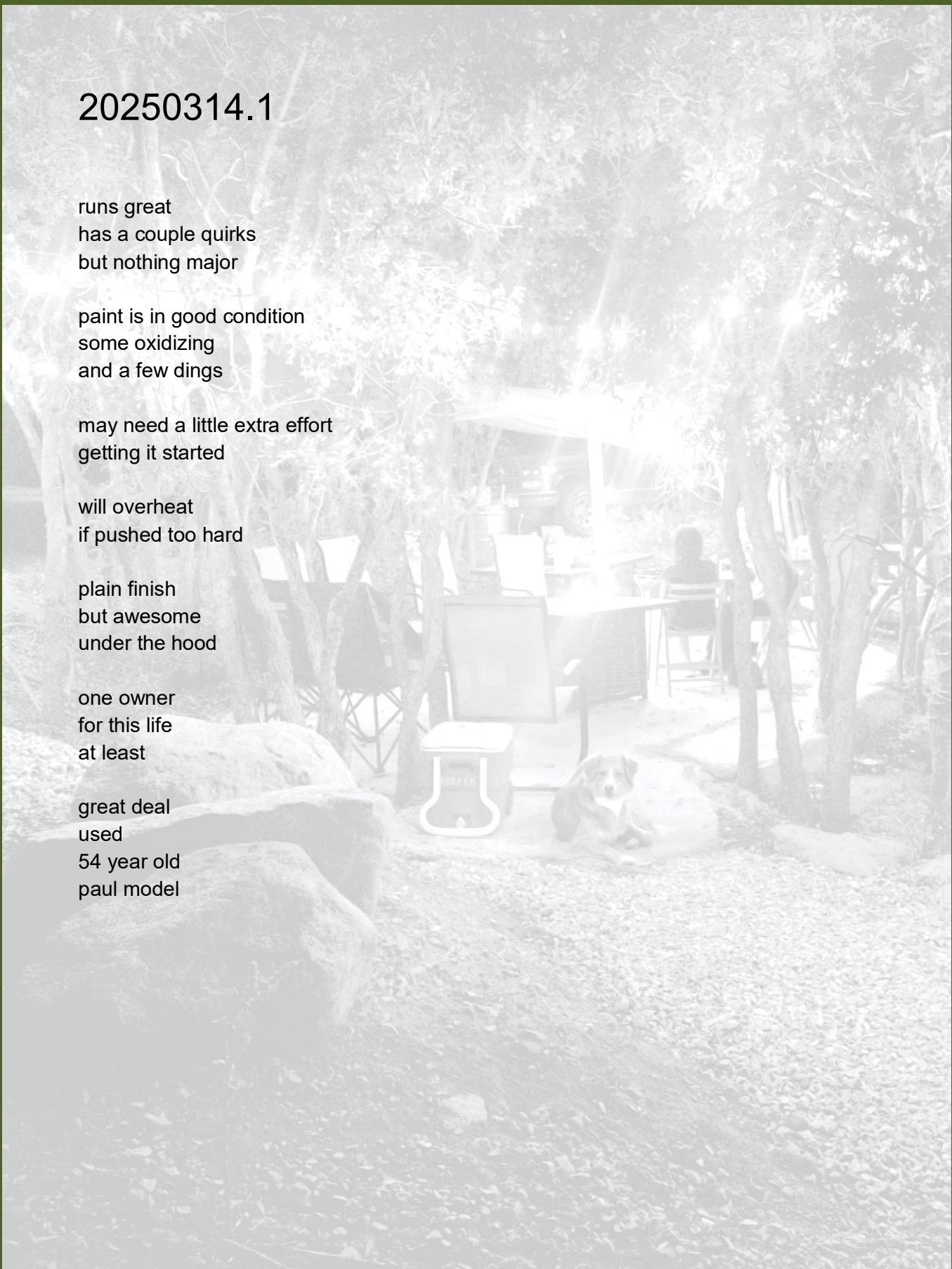
may need a little extra effort  
getting it started

will overheat  
if pushed too hard

plain finish  
but awesome  
under the hood

one owner  
for this life  
at least

great deal  
used  
54 year old  
paul model



20250318.1

spirits for you

spirits for me

they mingle

they talk

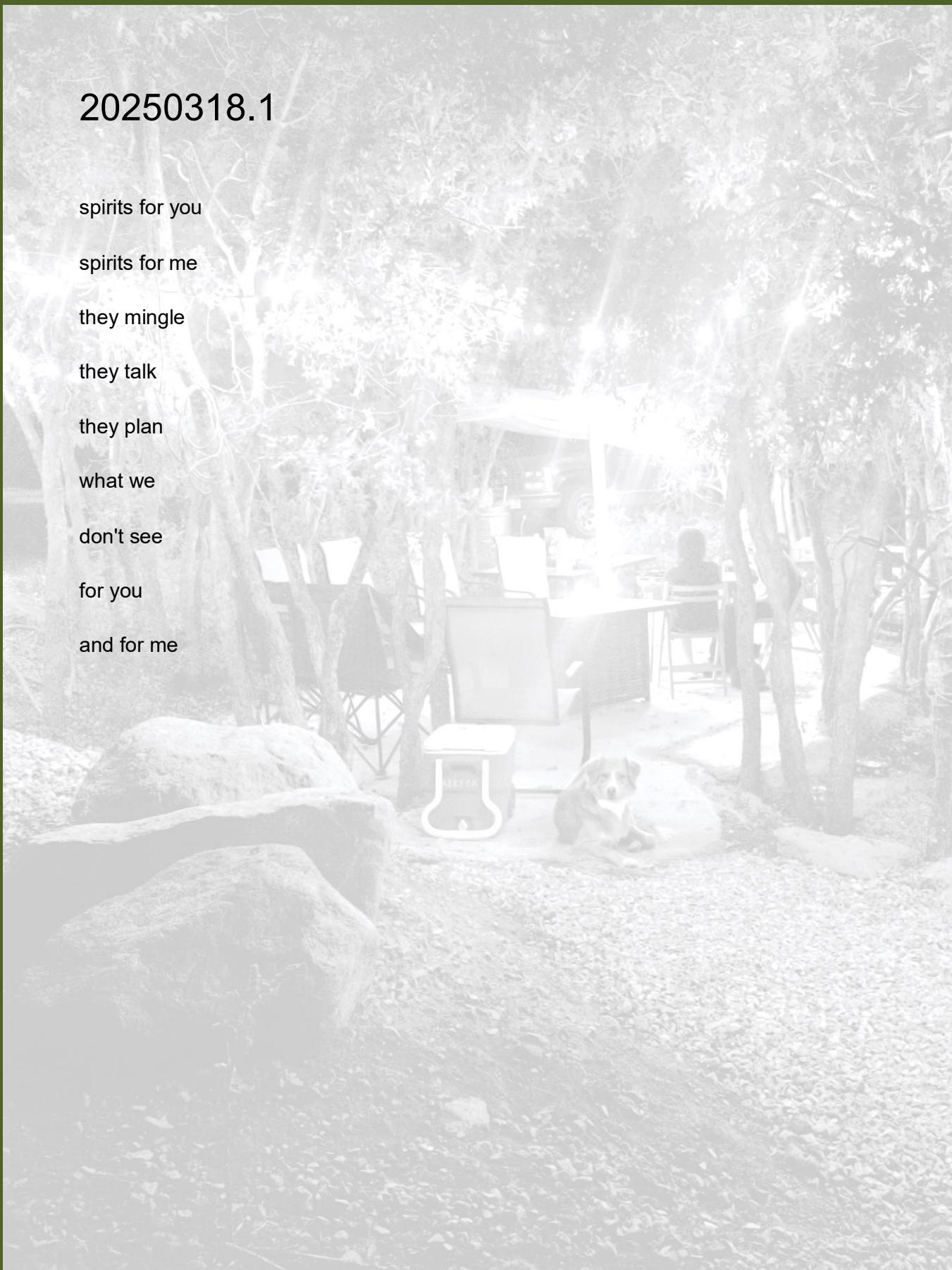
they plan

what we

don't see

for you

and for me



## 20250318.2

words

falling in my ears

my voice

resting in your heart

our hopes

on our sleeves

our chest

bare

all we've known

stacked mountain-high

creating

this pinnacle

this peak

you

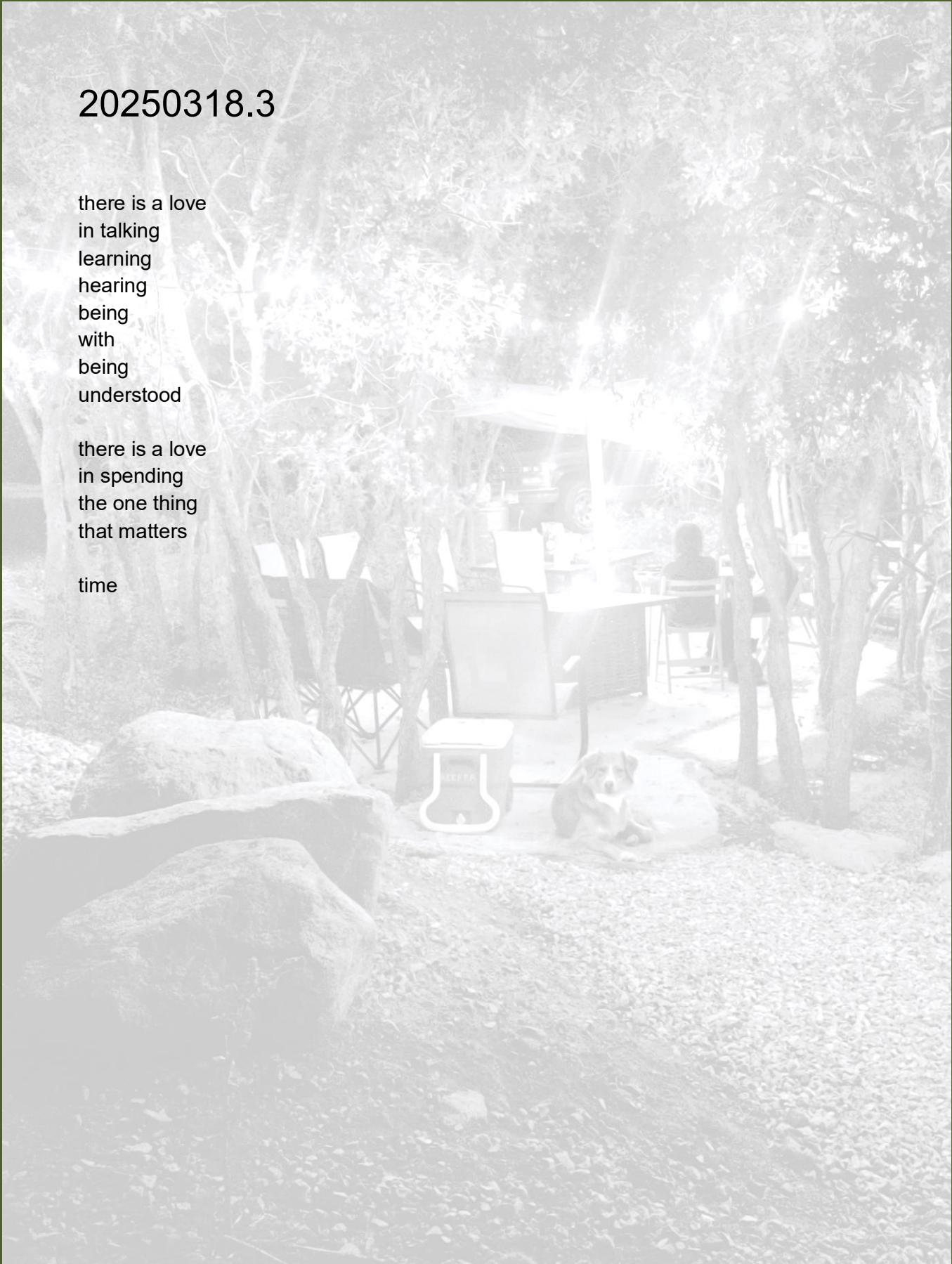
and i

20250318.3

there is a love  
in talking  
learning  
hearing  
being  
with  
being  
understood

there is a love  
in spending  
the one thing  
that matters

time



20250324.1

each day

she

he

eats alone  
watches tv alone  
sleeps alone

each day

he

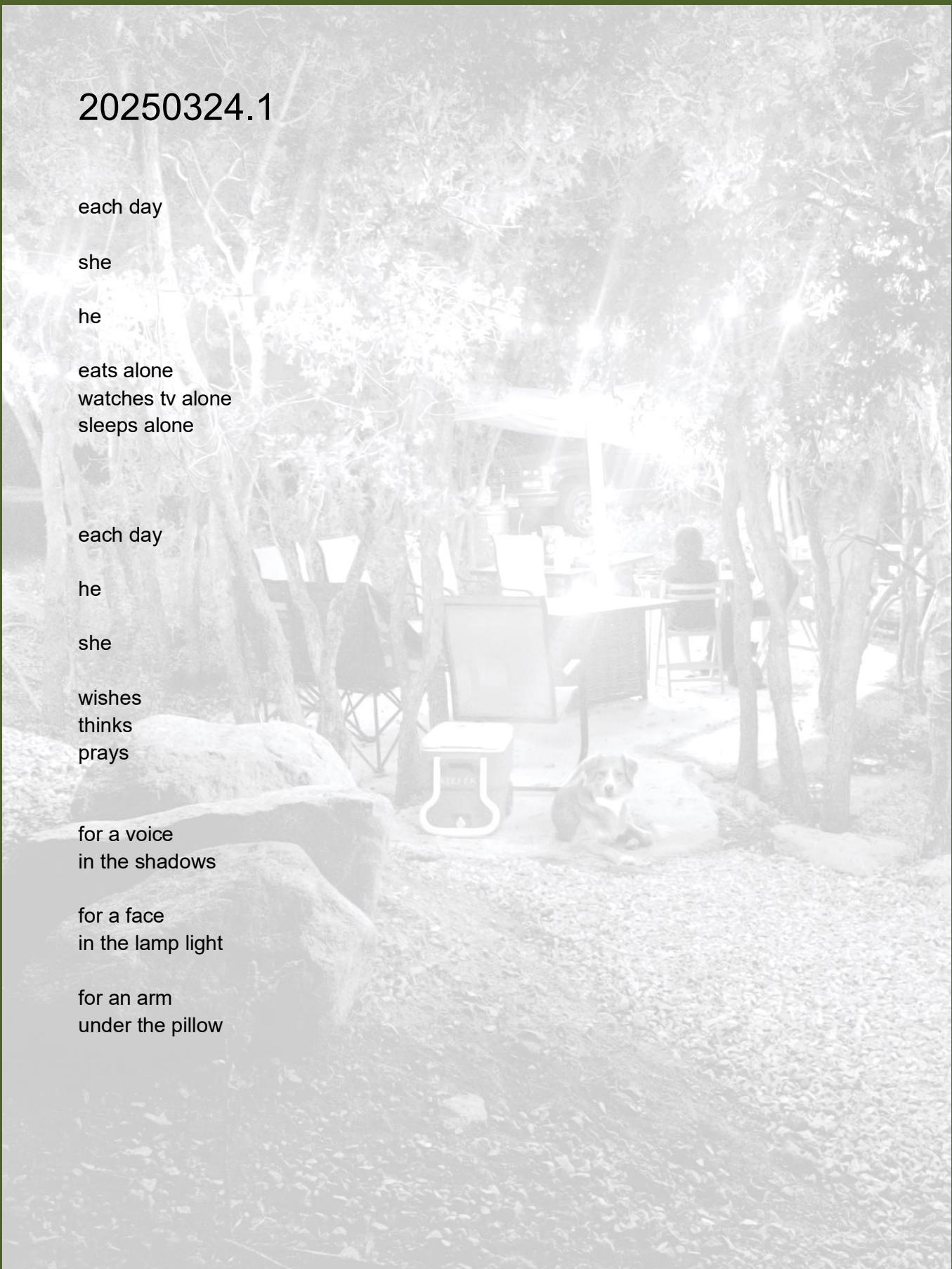
she

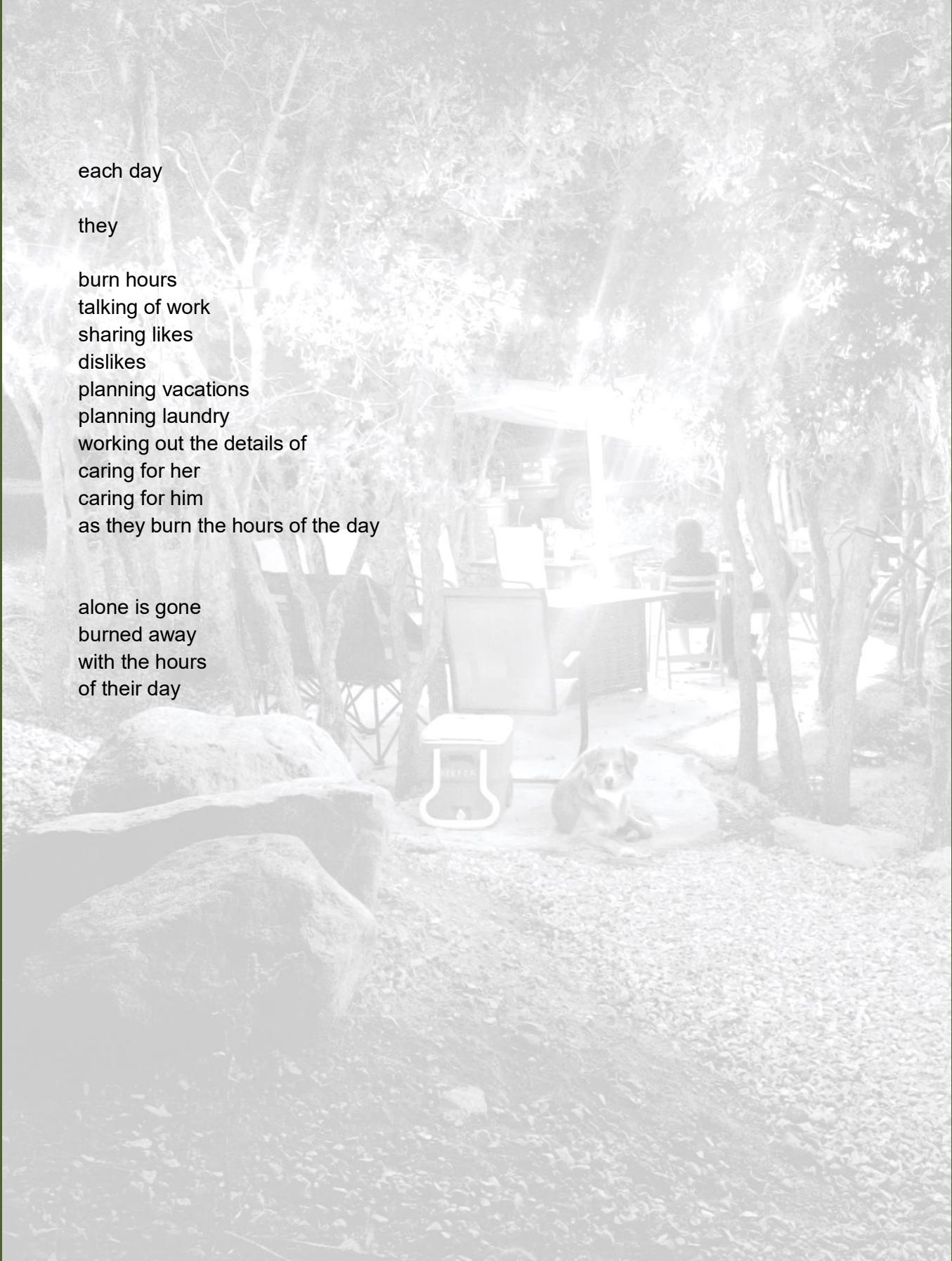
wishes  
thinks  
prays

for a voice  
in the shadows

for a face  
in the lamp light

for an arm  
under the pillow





each day

they

burn hours  
talking of work  
sharing likes  
dislikes  
planning vacations  
planning laundry  
working out the details of  
caring for her  
caring for him  
as they burn the hours of the day

alone is gone  
burned away  
with the hours  
of their day

20250324.2

power  
control

these things are yours  
you can have them

i will find

a gentle hand

a soft heart

a grateful soul

a shelter in the storm

a safe place

to call home

there will be no power  
no control

just family  
just us

me  
and  
she

20250411.1

she is broken

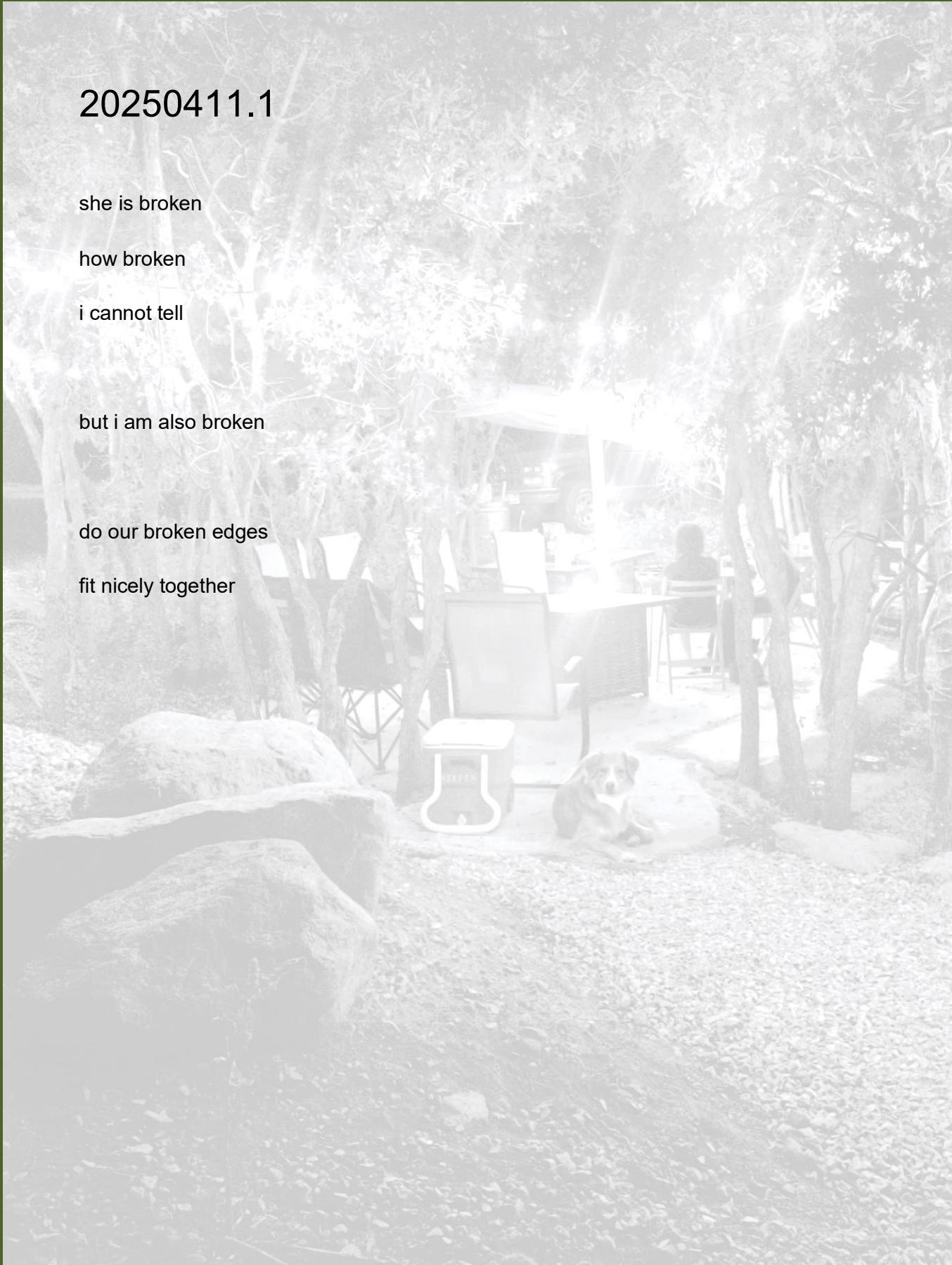
how broken

i cannot tell

but i am also broken

do our broken edges

fit nicely together



20250411.2

i know she will upgrade

leave

when the math of life

tips scales

away from me

i know

every moment is fleeting

i know

we share love today

maybe not tomorrow

i know

the sweetness of your kiss

the warm comfort of your embrace

i love you for the moment

and fear not

your departure



20250411.3

fungus is eating my body

fungus

that thing that decomposes our bodies  
when we die

is attempting to decompose me  
now  
today  
while i type  
and sit up in bed

it's a rash  
uncomfortable  
ugly  
inconvenient  
itchy

modern medicine will nail it  
i hope

it's a reminder  
that we fly through life  
in a capsule  
in a spaceship  
made of flesh

and there be asteroids  
in the way

there be monsters  
in them woods

## 20250411.4

i will go to the kitchen  
and warm up the food  
you brought to me

you are at your home

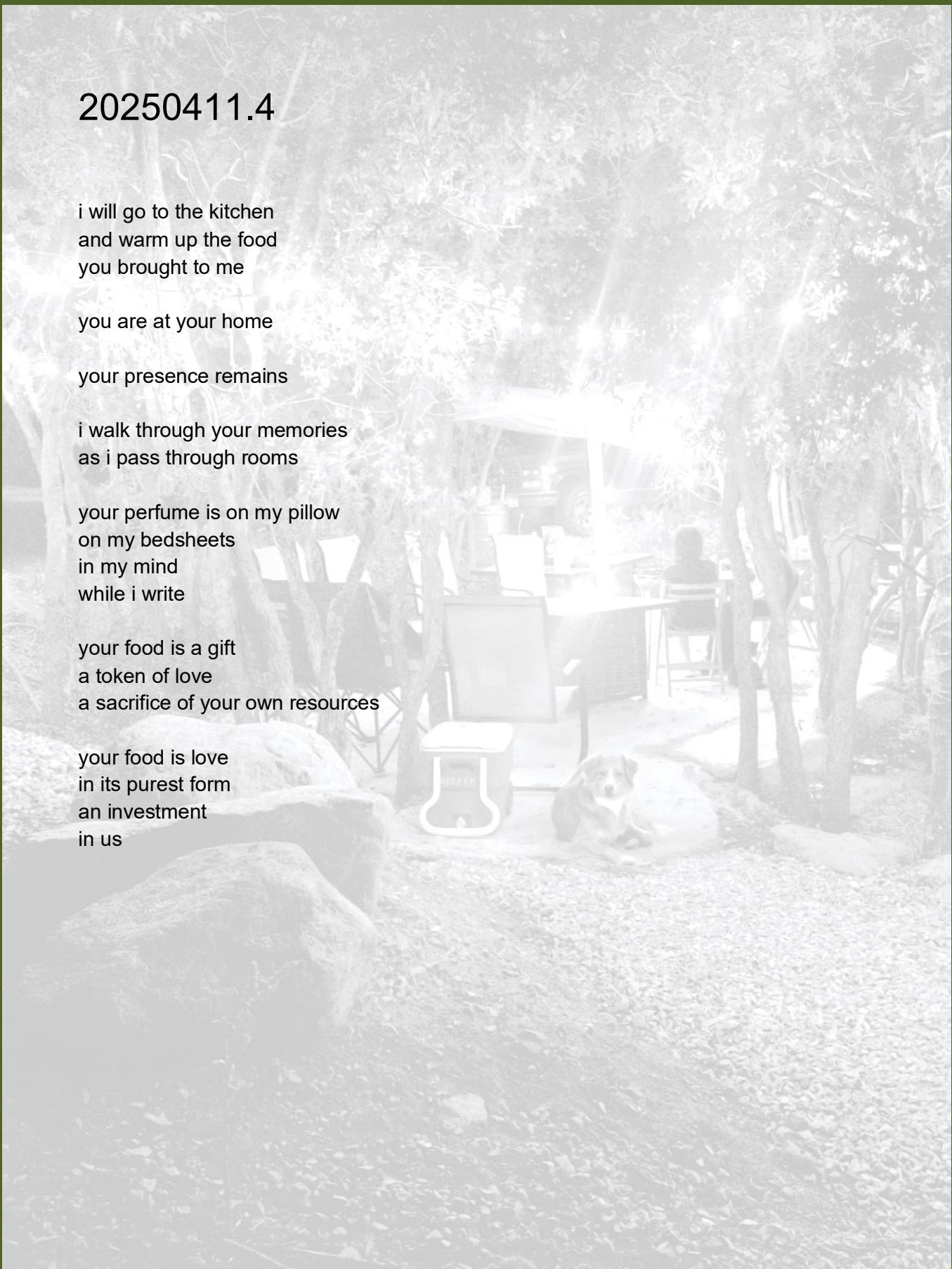
your presence remains

i walk through your memories  
as i pass through rooms

your perfume is on my pillow  
on my bedsheets  
in my mind  
while i write

your food is a gift  
a token of love  
a sacrifice of your own resources

your food is love  
in its purest form  
an investment  
in us



## 20250416.1

there will never be a year like that again

me so close to god

her so close to death

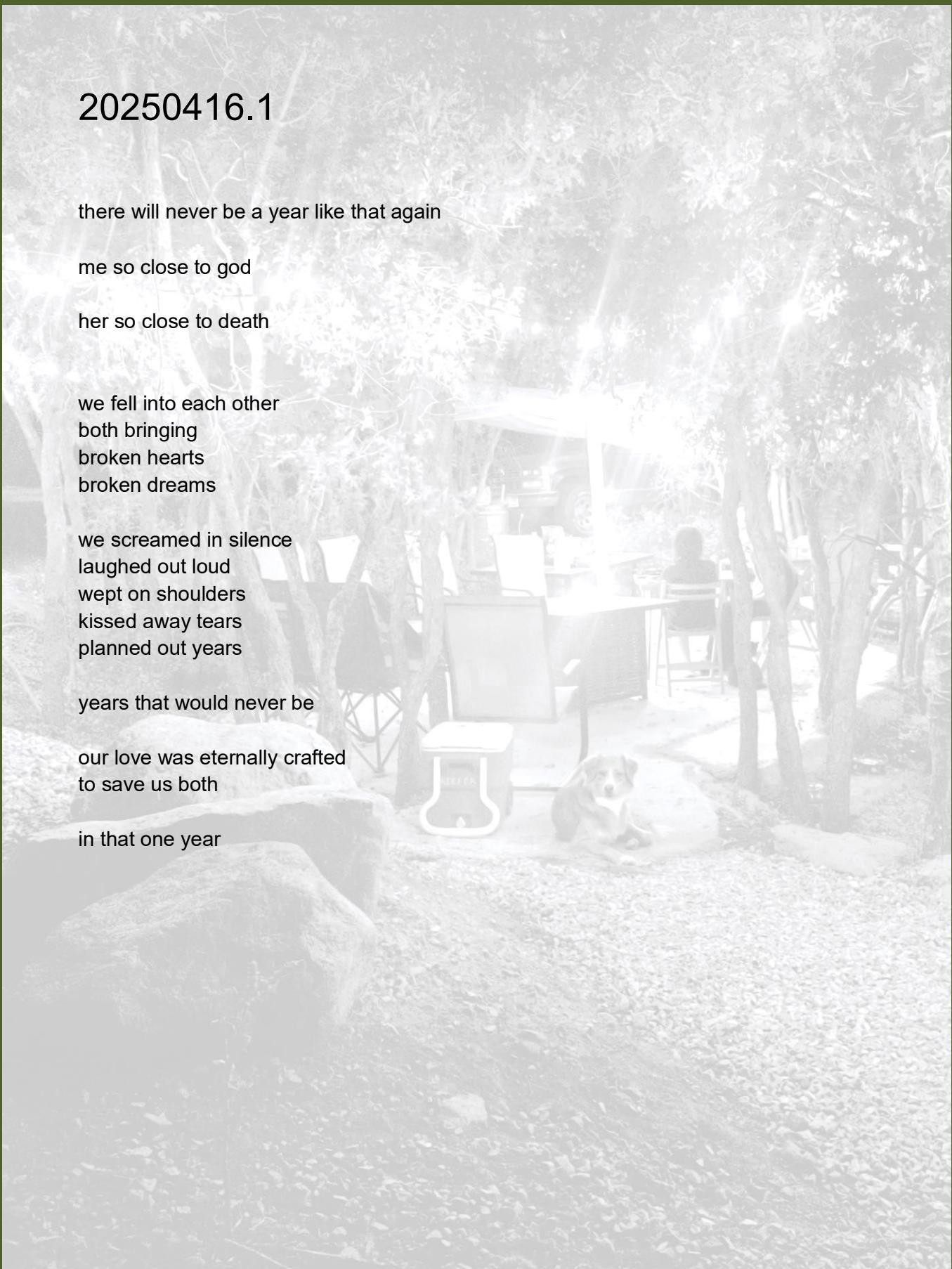
we fell into each other  
both bringing  
broken hearts  
broken dreams

we screamed in silence  
laughed out loud  
wept on shoulders  
kissed away tears  
planned out years

years that would never be

our love was eternally crafted  
to save us both

in that one year



20250424.1

i have spent

money

time

belief

life

thinking i had  
a better way

i did not

i had  
what we all have

a hope

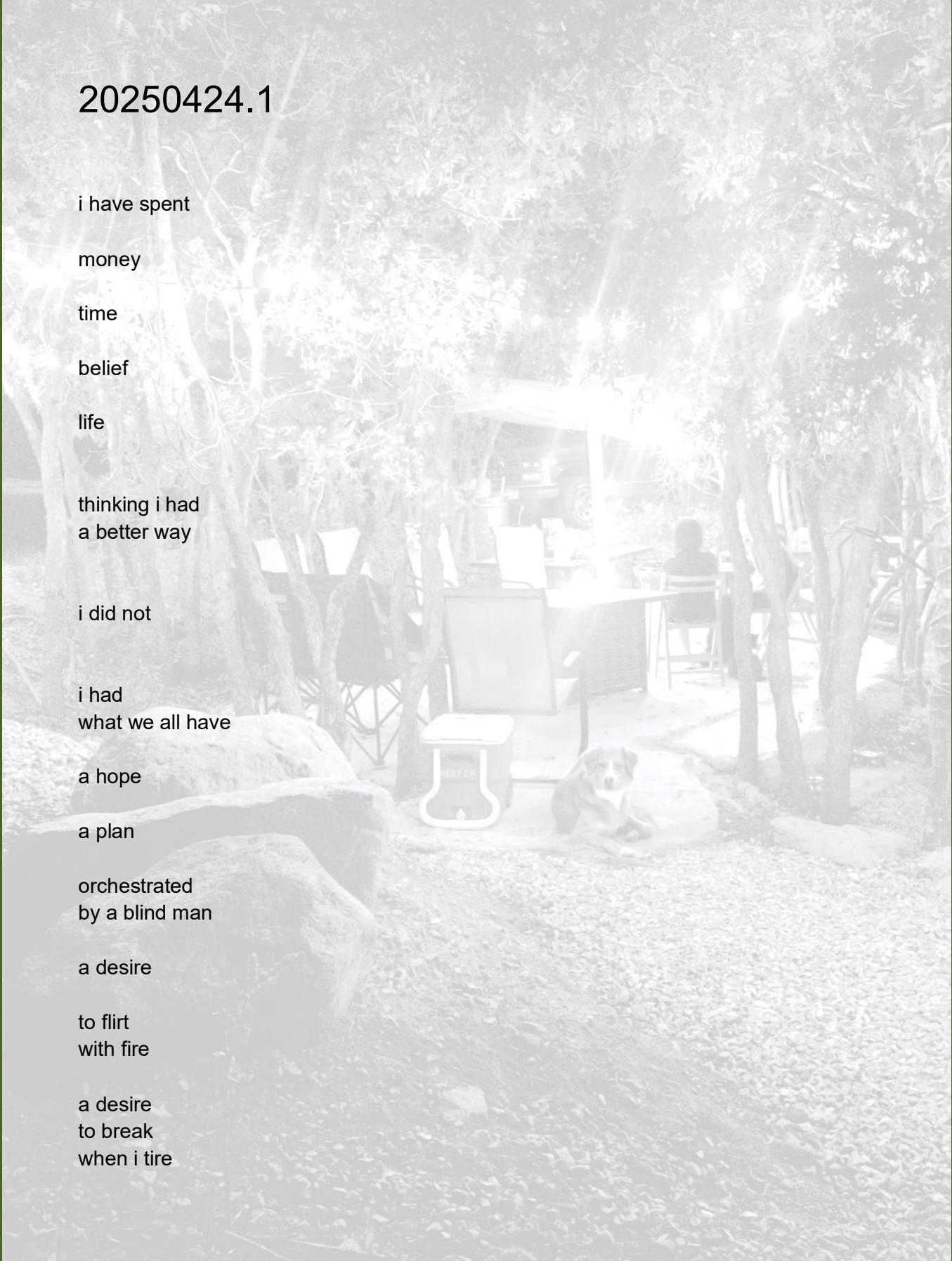
a plan

orchestrated  
by a blind man

a desire

to flirt  
with fire

a desire  
to break  
when i tire





a failed goal  
a great hole

in my chest

in the rent  
and torn veil

all faith  
drown  
down the well

a yesterday  
a yesteryear

landing hard  
without landing gear

a silence  
a fear  
of standing alone  
no one near

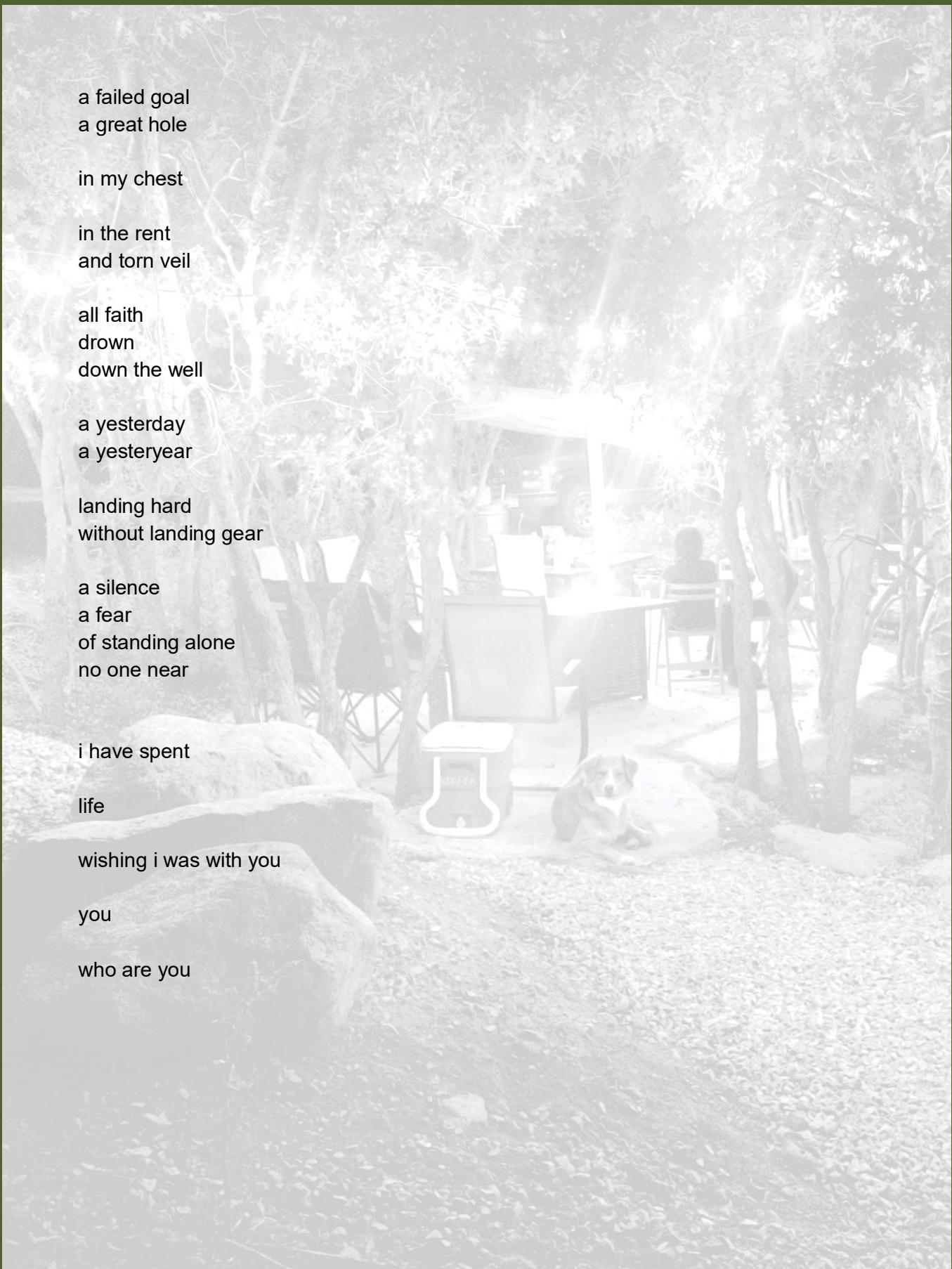
i have spent

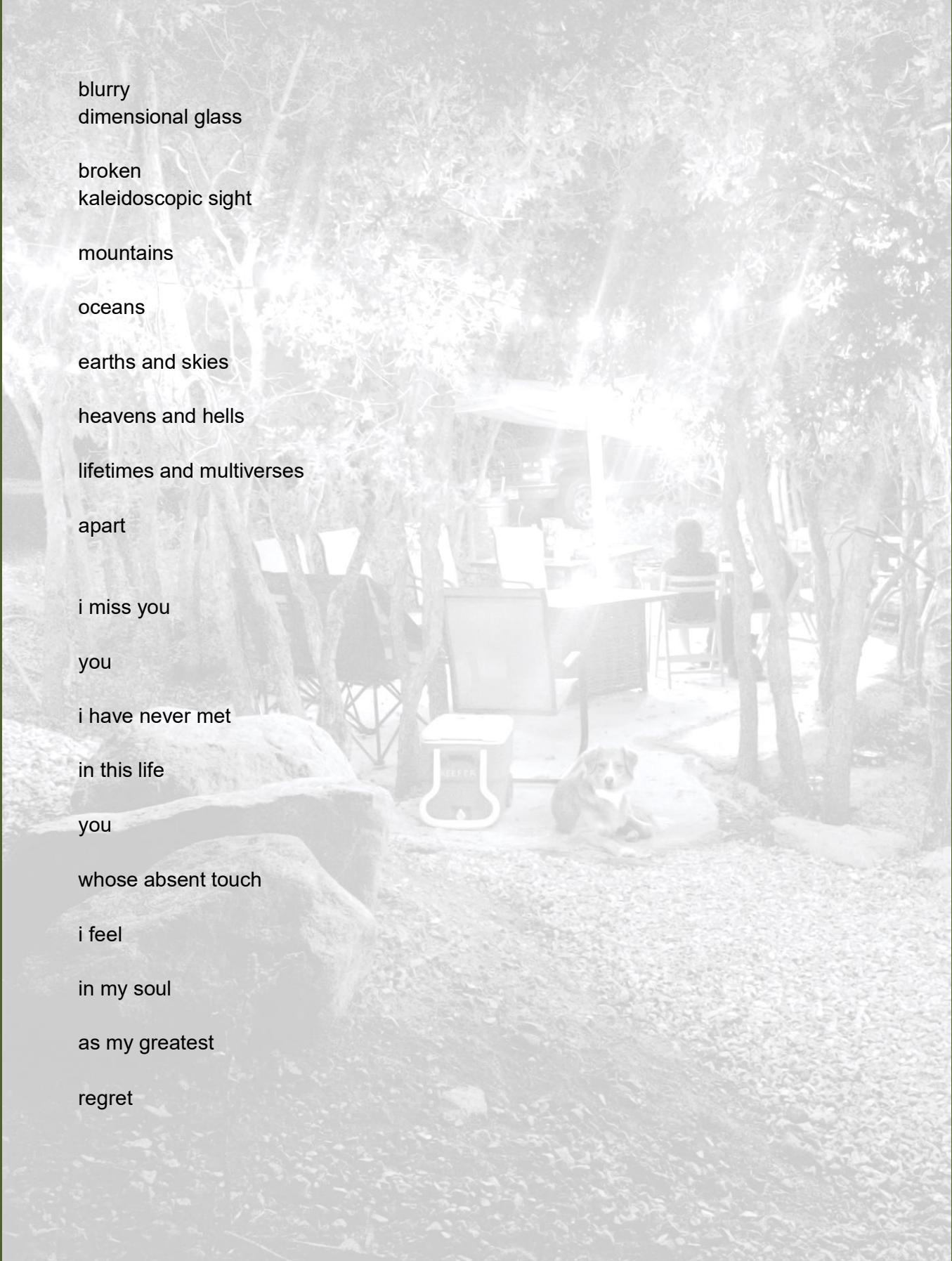
life

wishing i was with you

you

who are you





blurry  
dimensional glass

broken  
kaleidoscopic sight

mountains

oceans

earths and skies

heavens and hells

lifetimes and multiverses

apart

i miss you

you

i have never met

in this life

you

whose absent touch

i feel

in my soul

as my greatest

regret

## 20250506.1

god  
has retreated to someplace  
far from me

fear and loneliness  
stalk me

no refuge  
no protector  
no savior  
no god

no comfort  
at night  
no light  
during the day

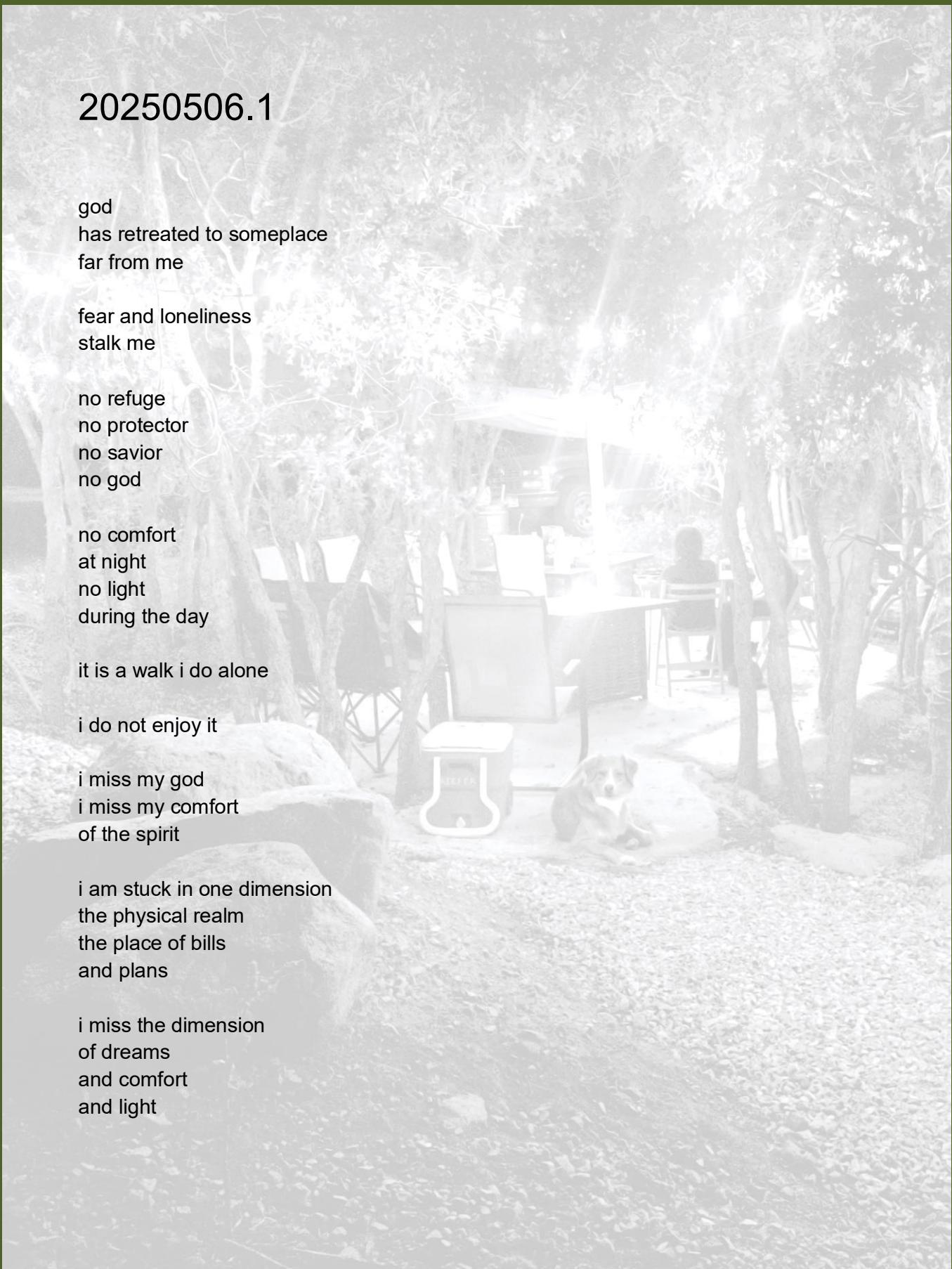
it is a walk i do alone

i do not enjoy it

i miss my god  
i miss my comfort  
of the spirit

i am stuck in one dimension  
the physical realm  
the place of bills  
and plans

i miss the dimension  
of dreams  
and comfort  
and light





## 20250416.1

there will never be a year like that again

me so close to god

her so close to death

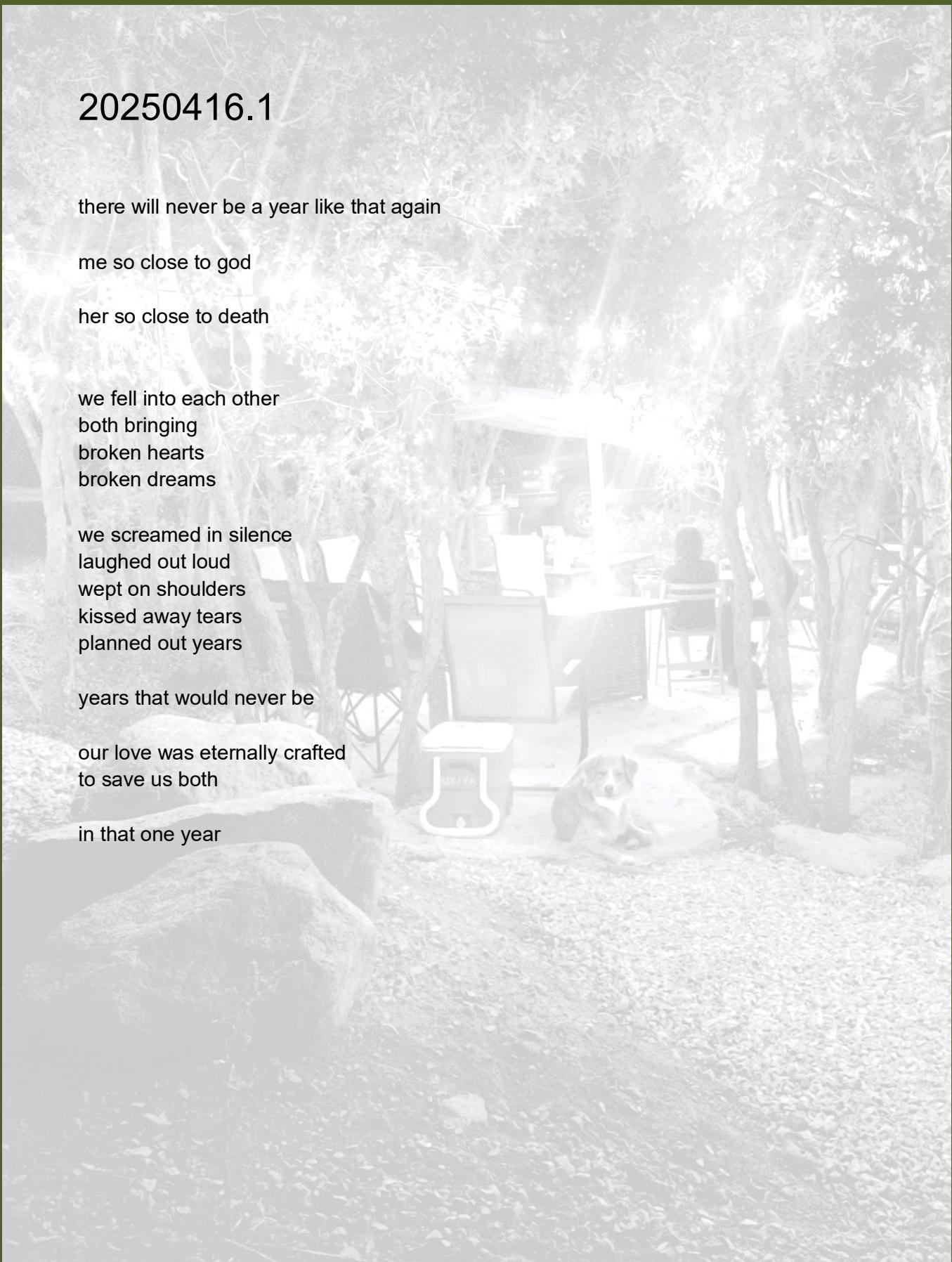
we fell into each other  
both bringing  
broken hearts  
broken dreams

we screamed in silence  
laughed out loud  
wept on shoulders  
kissed away tears  
planned out years

years that would never be

our love was eternally crafted  
to save us both

in that one year



## 20250508.1

a magpie built her nest  
next to my nest

hers a large bundle of twigs atop a tree  
mine a red aluminum camper atop a chevy

she loves the spring spider hatch in the meadow  
so easy to flutter down and collect a meal

i love that she's eating the spiders  
can she eat the ants, flies, and mosquitos too

she picked the tree between the camper and the patio  
which is easily the most walked spot on the property

she picked in winter  
does she regret her choice now that i too live here

she flies when i approach  
far and out of sight

recently she flies  
not so far  
still in sight  
stops to eat some spiders  
and watches me  
while she eats

lately  
she seems okay  
with a large animal  
a different species  
milling around her nest  
moving about some unknown business

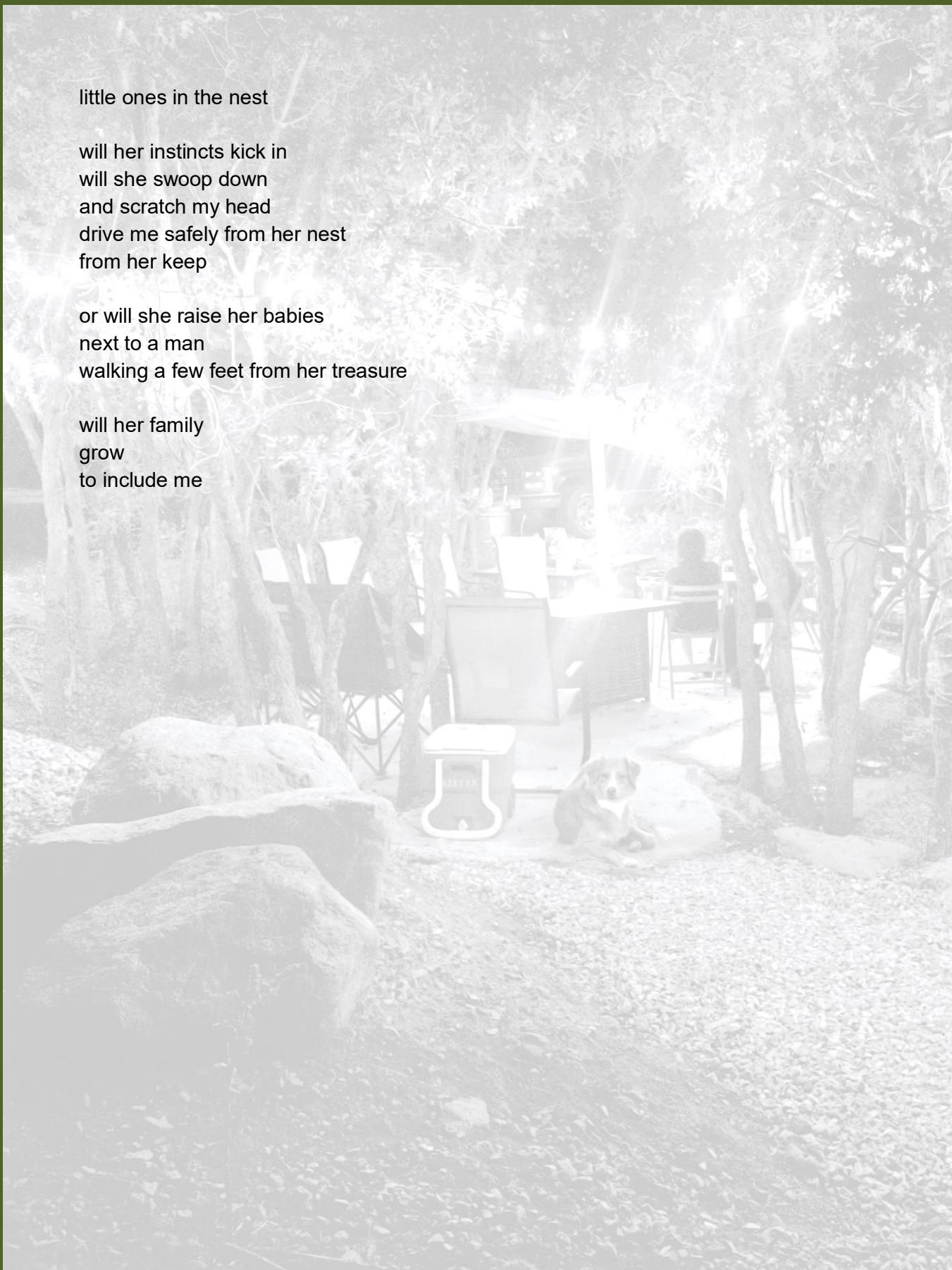
i hear small squawks now

little ones in the nest

will her instincts kick in  
will she swoop down  
and scratch my head  
drive me safely from her nest  
from her keep

or will she raise her babies  
next to a man  
walking a few feet from her treasure

will her family  
grow  
to include me



20250510.1

midnight

drunk

ruminating

on people  
places  
time

long before  
tonight

a heart  
a thought  
a memory  
so dear

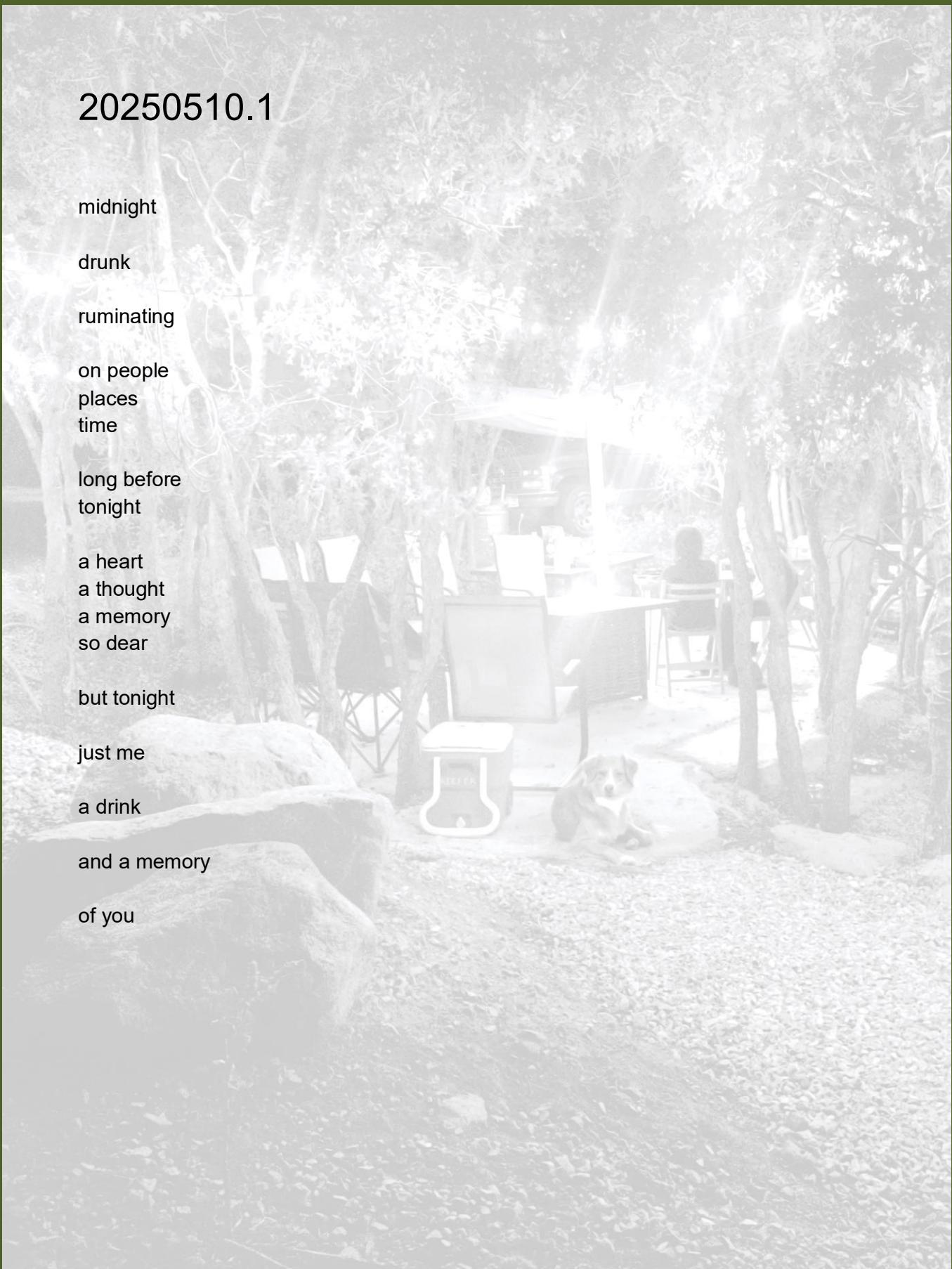
but tonight

just me

a drink

and a memory

of you



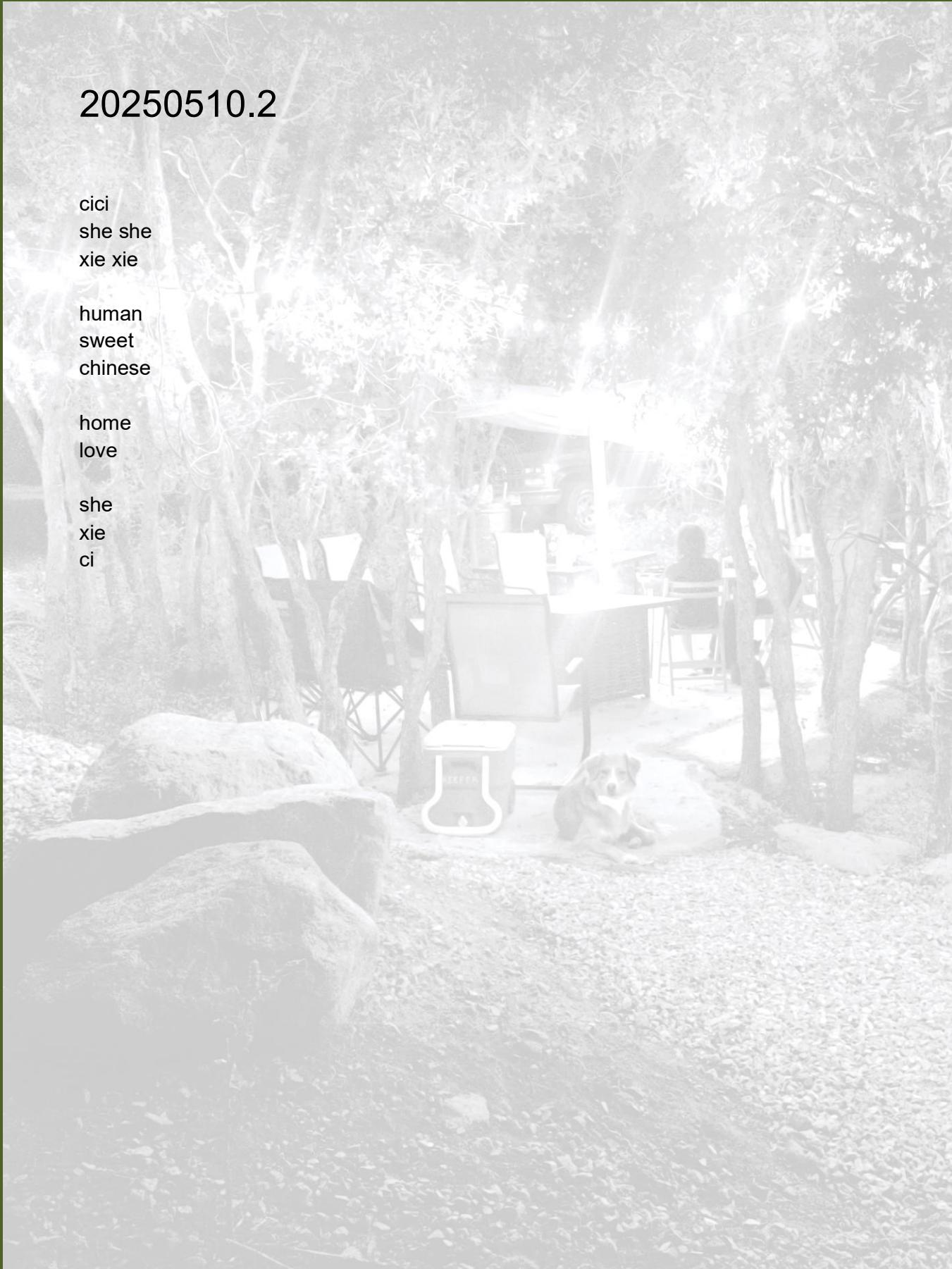
20250510.2

cici  
she she  
xie xie

human  
sweet  
chinese

home  
love

she  
xie  
ci



20250512.1

she is right

i'm bringing 30% to the table

do i want a woman  
who also brings 30%

a woman who brings 100%  
deserves a man  
who brings 100%

i can't do it

i can't bring 100%

because i could then lose 100%

i've lost 100% before

i paid monthly for 25 years  
14 of those years under the burden of divorce  
the last time i gave 100%

today

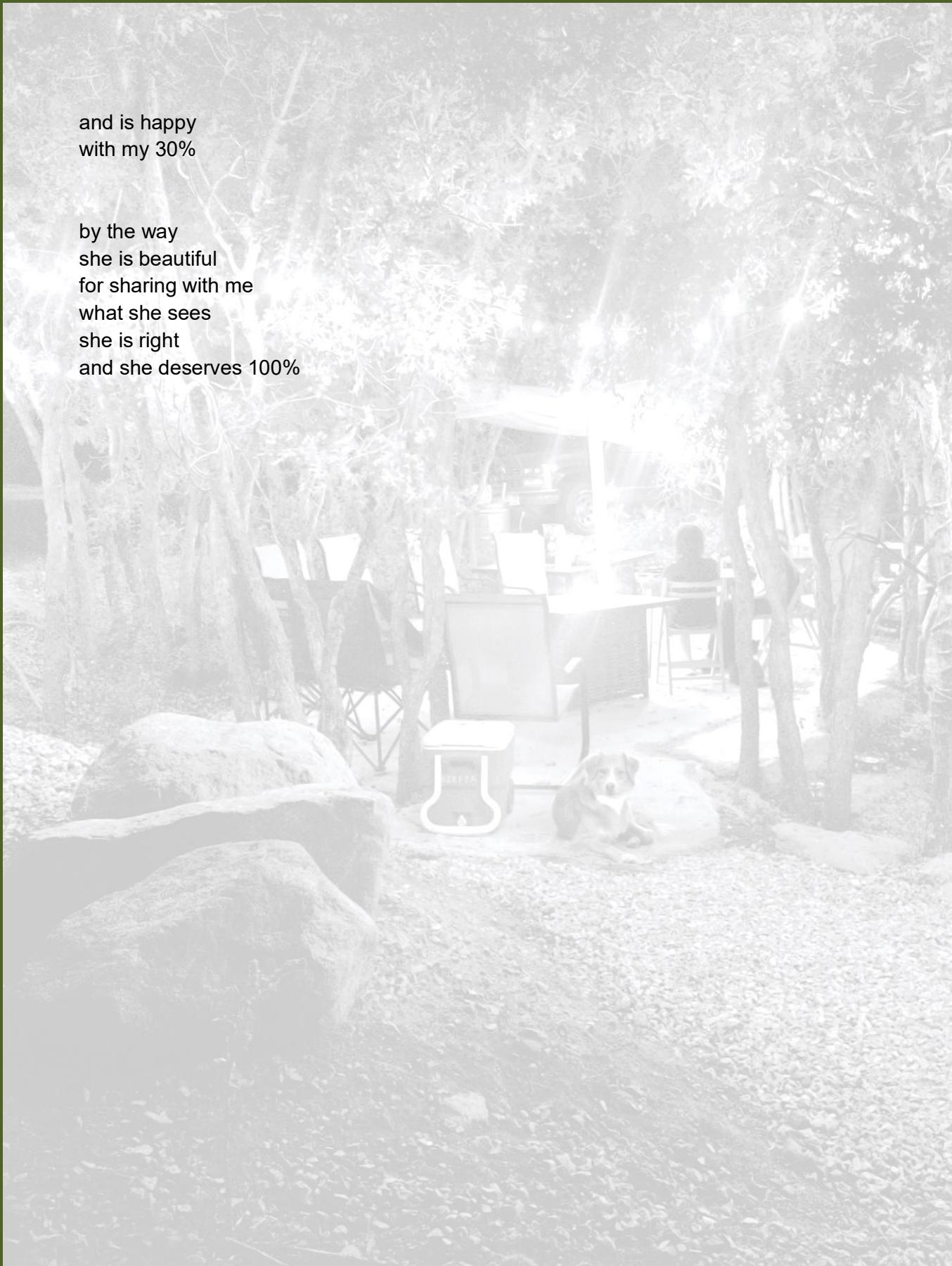
i have not the time  
the money  
the heart  
or health

to suffer like that again

i might need a woman  
who brings 30%

and is happy  
with my 30%

by the way  
she is beautiful  
for sharing with me  
what she sees  
she is right  
and she deserves 100%



## 20250515.1

demanding  
of yourself and others

judgmental  
of what you think others should be and do

for a moment  
all that suspended  
for a moment  
the rain stopped mid air  
for a moment  
you just wanted held

that moment  
mine and yours

that moment  
spirit holding spirit  
body holding body  
friend holding friend

moments slip  
pictures crack  
time fades

the music spun back up  
traffic commenced  
the regular beat of life  
fell back into place

with the regular arriving  
our special departed  
our suspended moment  
ended

## 20250516.1

the spiritual  
has withdrawn

all i see  
is house  
and hill  
and hands

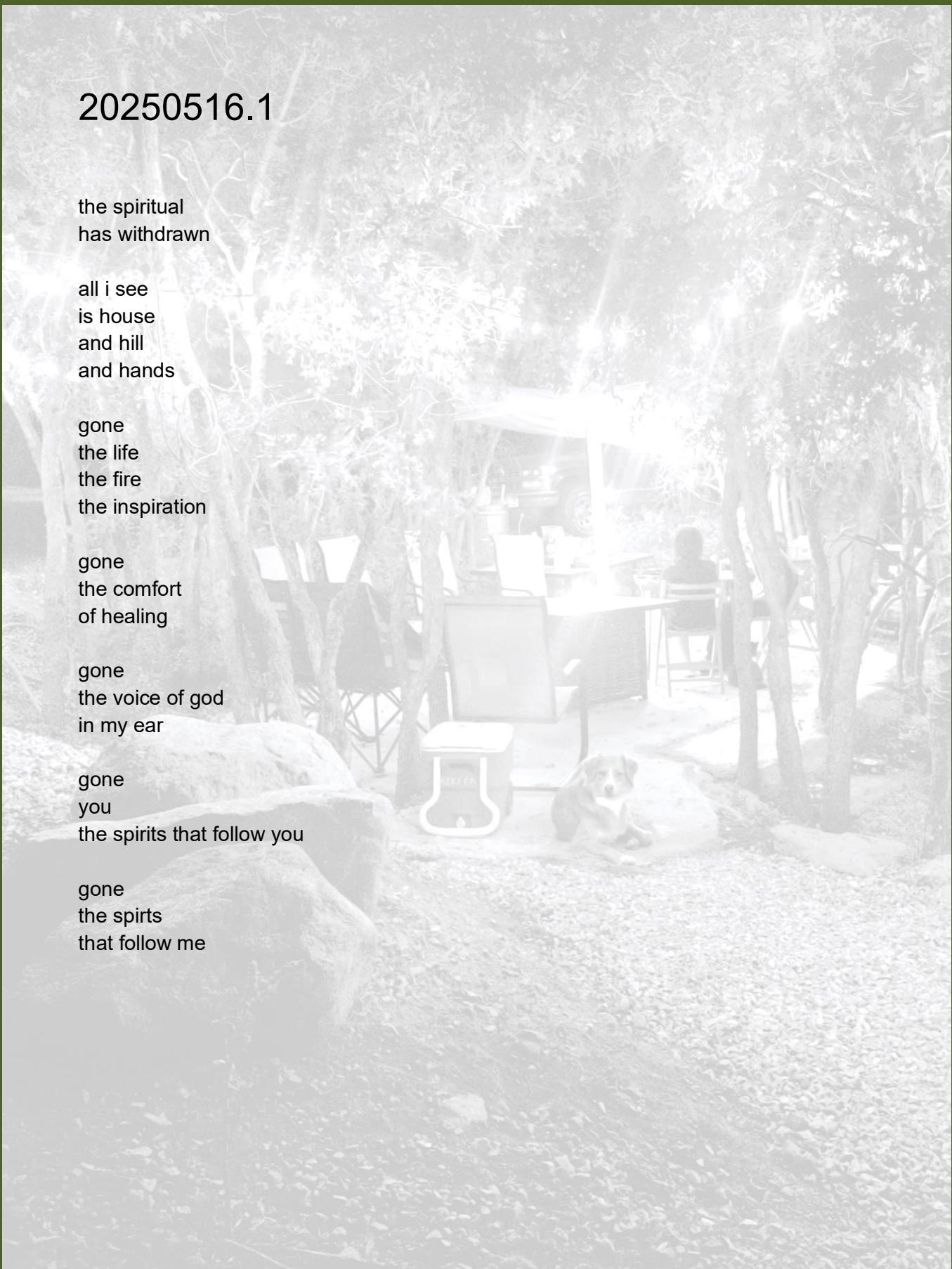
gone  
the life  
the fire  
the inspiration

gone  
the comfort  
of healing

gone  
the voice of god  
in my ear

gone  
you  
the spirits that follow you

gone  
the spirits  
that follow me



## 20250604.1

i stopped  
presenting myself  
before god  
in humility

i stopped  
pleading  
for the spirit  
to be present

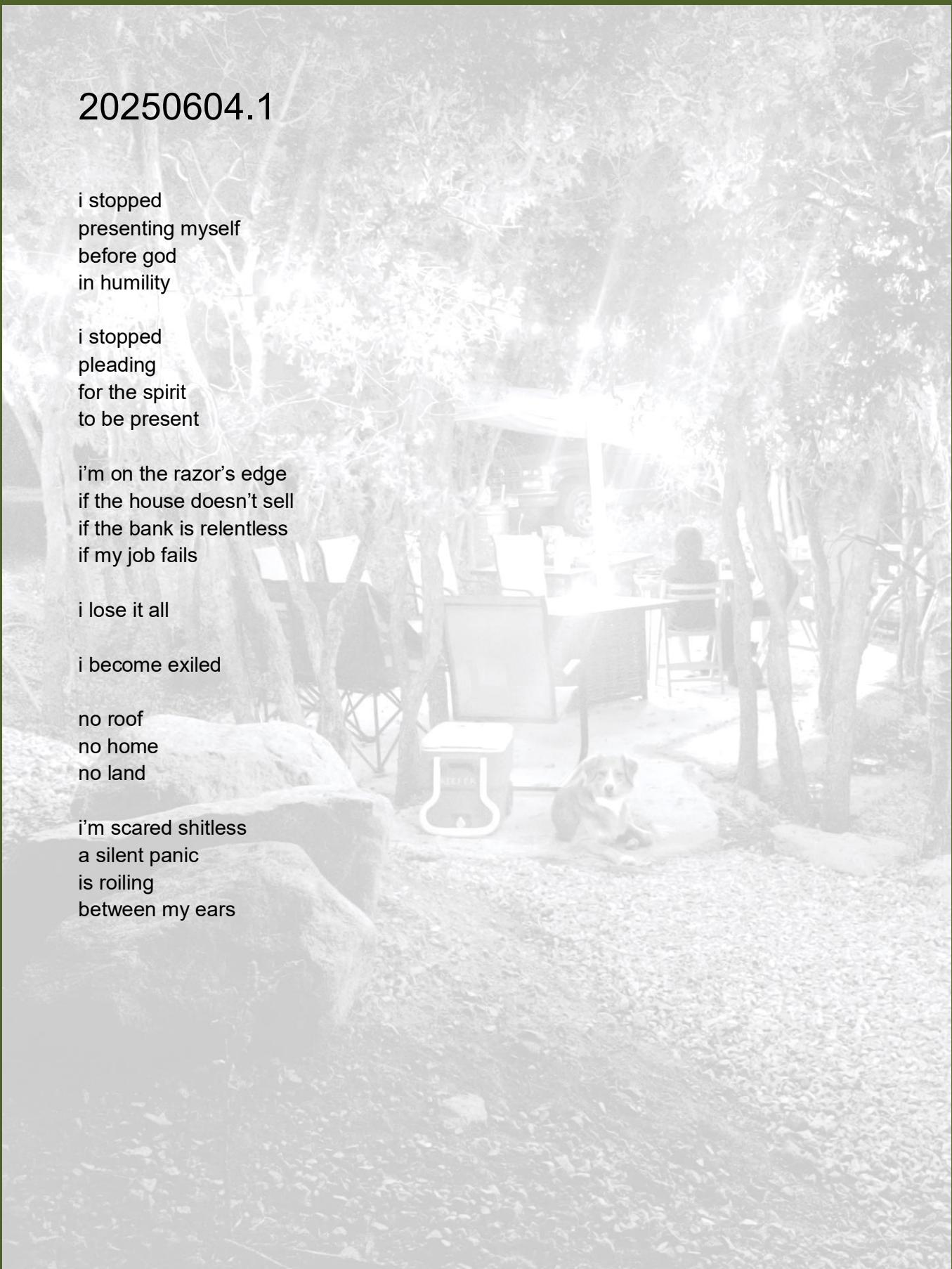
i'm on the razor's edge  
if the house doesn't sell  
if the bank is relentless  
if my job fails

i lose it all

i become exiled

no roof  
no home  
no land

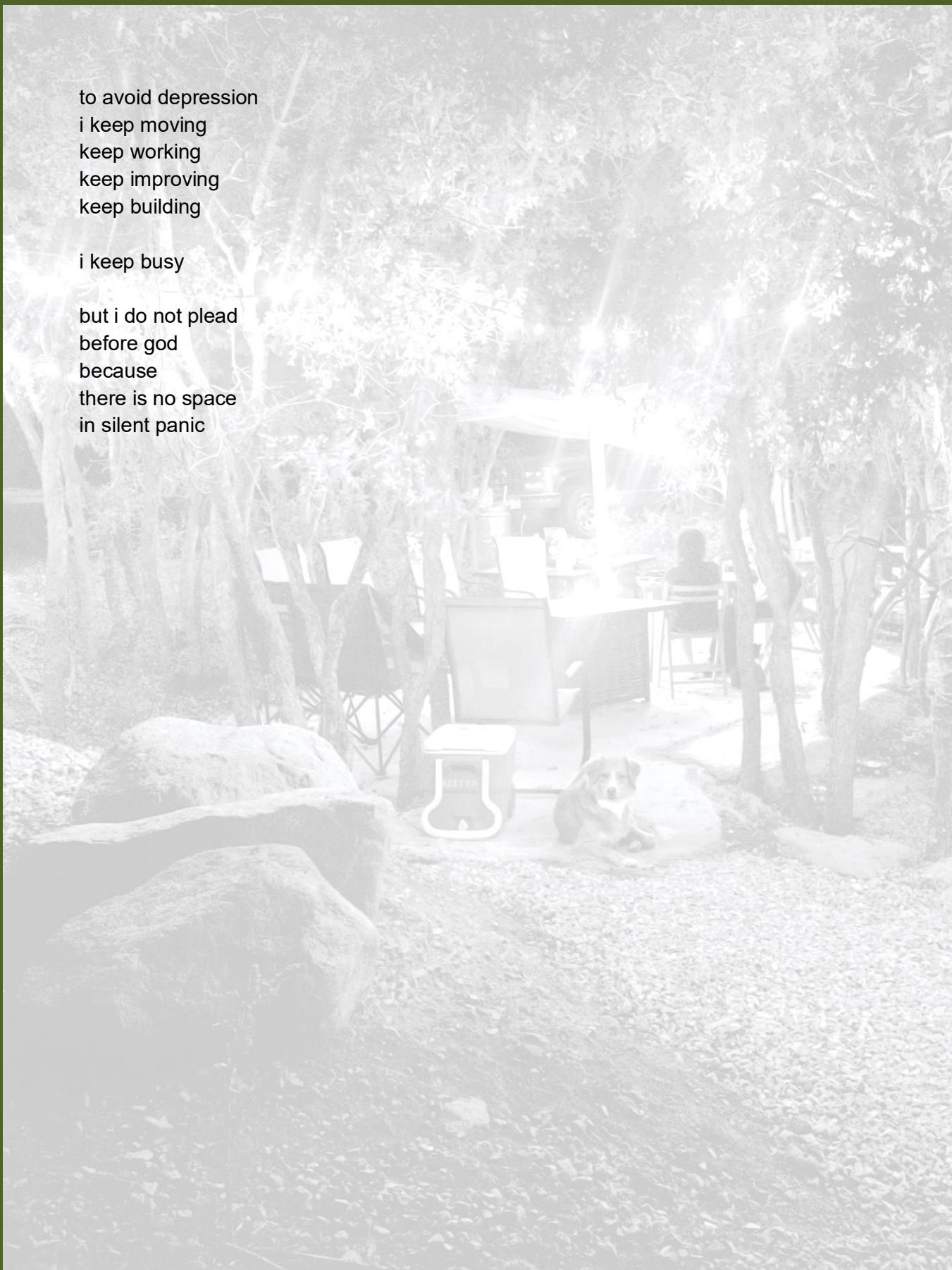
i'm scared shitless  
a silent panic  
is roiling  
between my ears



to avoid depression  
i keep moving  
keep working  
keep improving  
keep building

i keep busy

but i do not plead  
before god  
because  
there is no space  
in silent panic



## 20250622.1

it felt like home  
because it was home  
her home  
loved  
cultivated  
decorated  
blessed  
and protected

i was invited  
embraced  
celebrated

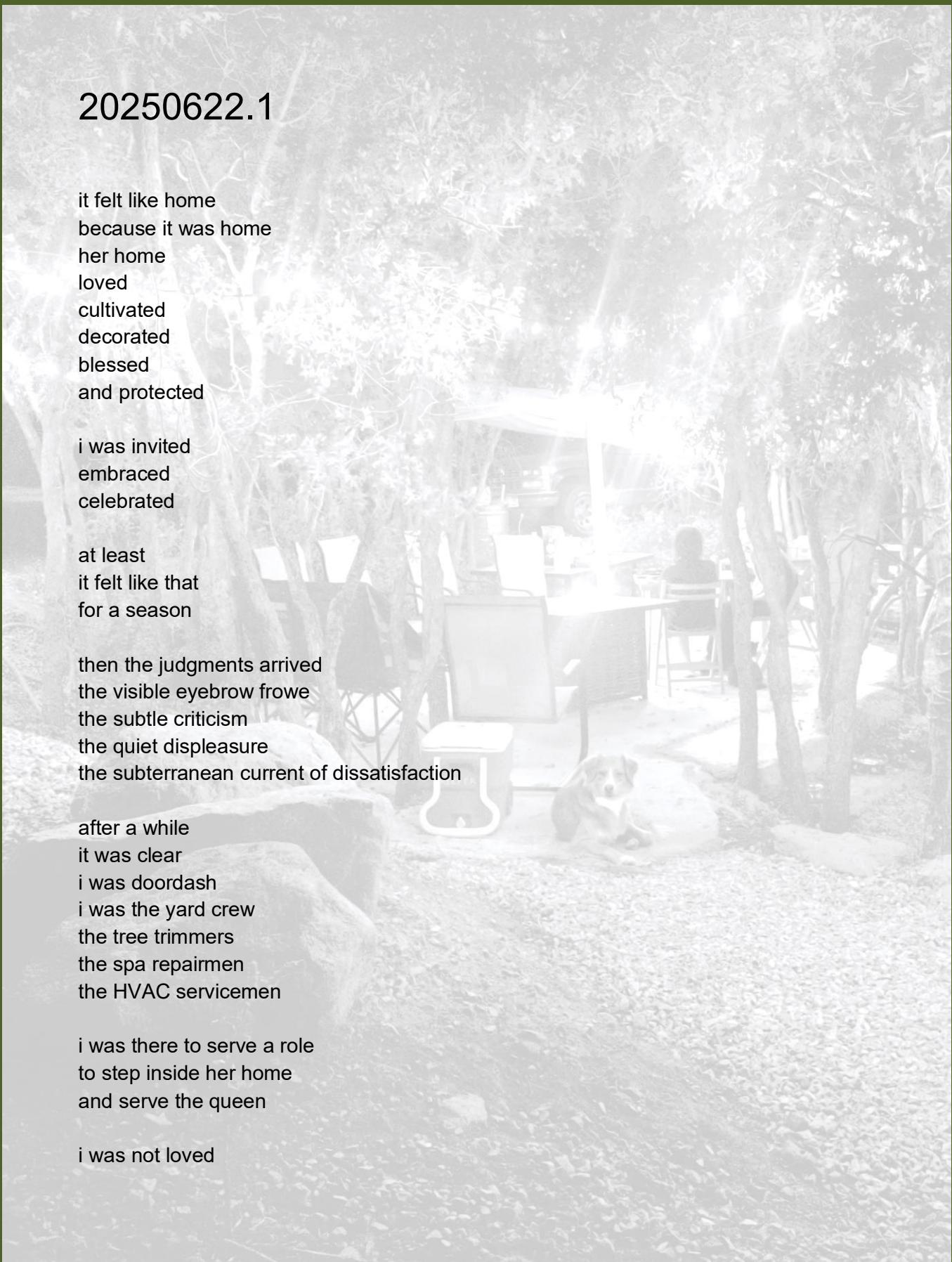
at least  
it felt like that  
for a season

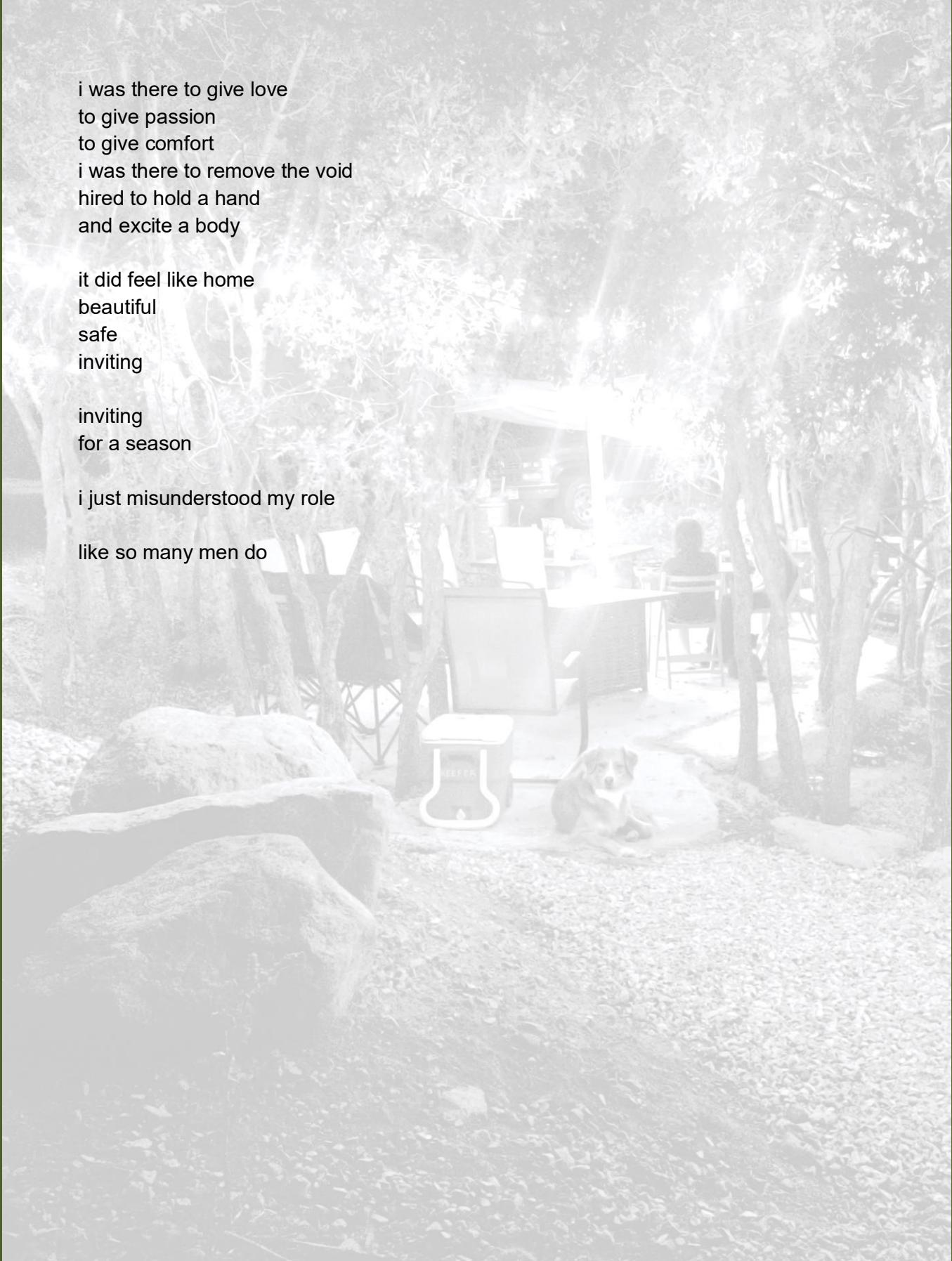
then the judgments arrived  
the visible eyebrow frowe  
the subtle criticism  
the quiet displeasure  
the subterranean current of dissatisfaction

after a while  
it was clear  
i was doordash  
i was the yard crew  
the tree trimmers  
the spa repairmen  
the HVAC servicemen

i was there to serve a role  
to step inside her home  
and serve the queen

i was not loved





i was there to give love  
to give passion  
to give comfort  
i was there to remove the void  
hired to hold a hand  
and excite a body

it did feel like home  
beautiful  
safe  
inviting

inviting  
for a season

i just misunderstood my role  
like so many men do

20250622.2

she wants control

but i surrendered control a long time ago

i gave all i had to give  
and now i get to not give a shit

i have earned the right to be me  
to live on a mountainside  
follow the travels of the sun  
peek at a star-strewn heaven  
wander in prayer until my soul finds god

i have evolved beyond control

she probably won't stay  
when she sees my path is set

set by the heat of summer  
set by the green leaves of trees  
set by the migration of the birds and the deer  
set by the orange leaves of trees  
set by the cold of the winter  
set by the hatching  
and the dying  
of the insects

she probably won't stay  
when she learns i already have a master

earth and sky

20250622.3

i have what she needs

but she might not see that

she might want beyond what she needs

she may want to control things

she has no control over

she may want it all

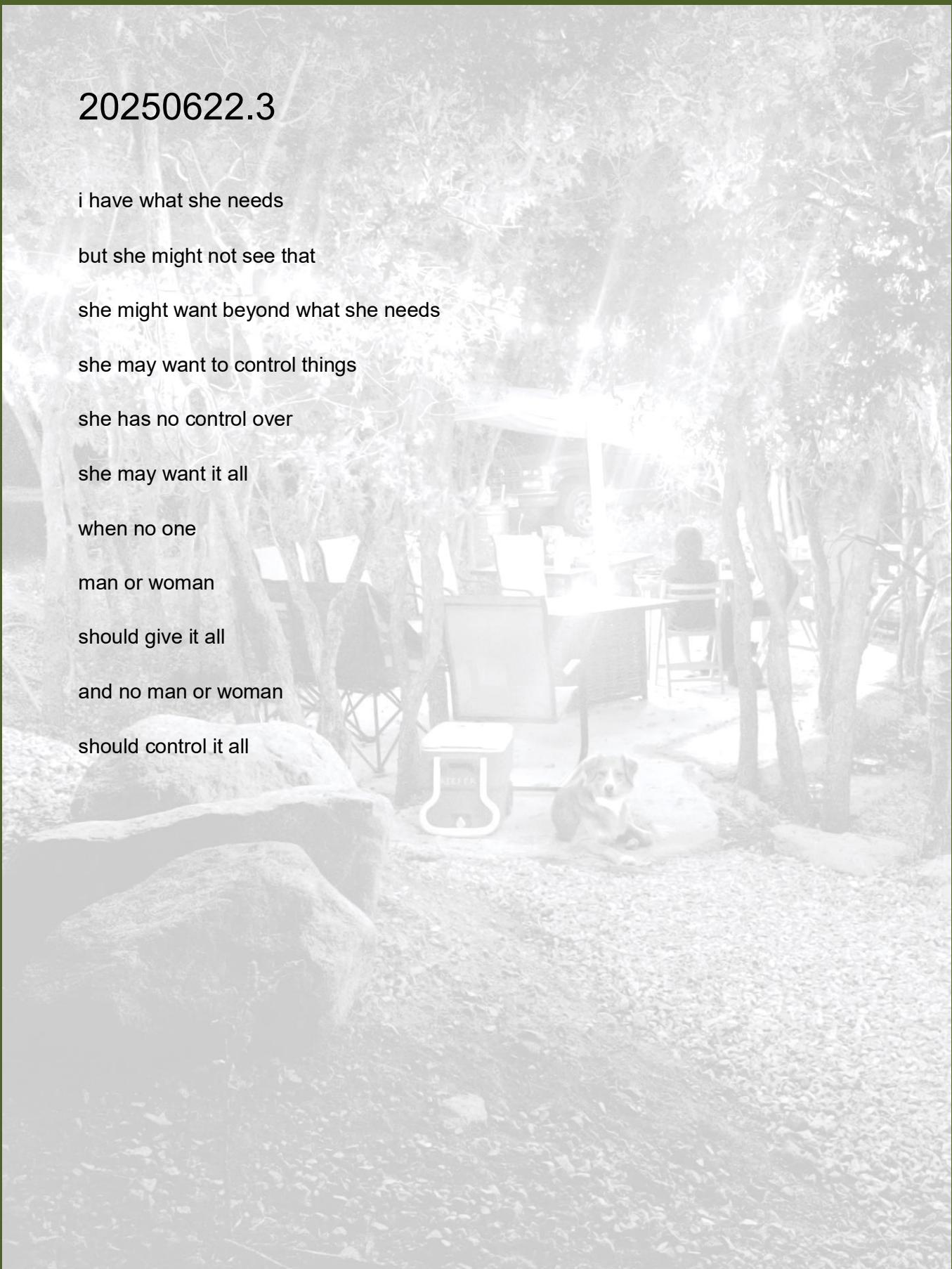
when no one

man or woman

should give it all

and no man or woman

should control it all



## 20250622.4

70,000 nails

one nail at a time

near-endless cuts

one cut at a time

heavy walls

lifted carefully

one man working

safety first

it seems impossible

it is certainly improbable

for one person

to build an entire house

i do not think of the enormity of the project

i think only of the next wall

the next post and beam

the next order of lumber

the next checkbox

on a permit inspection list

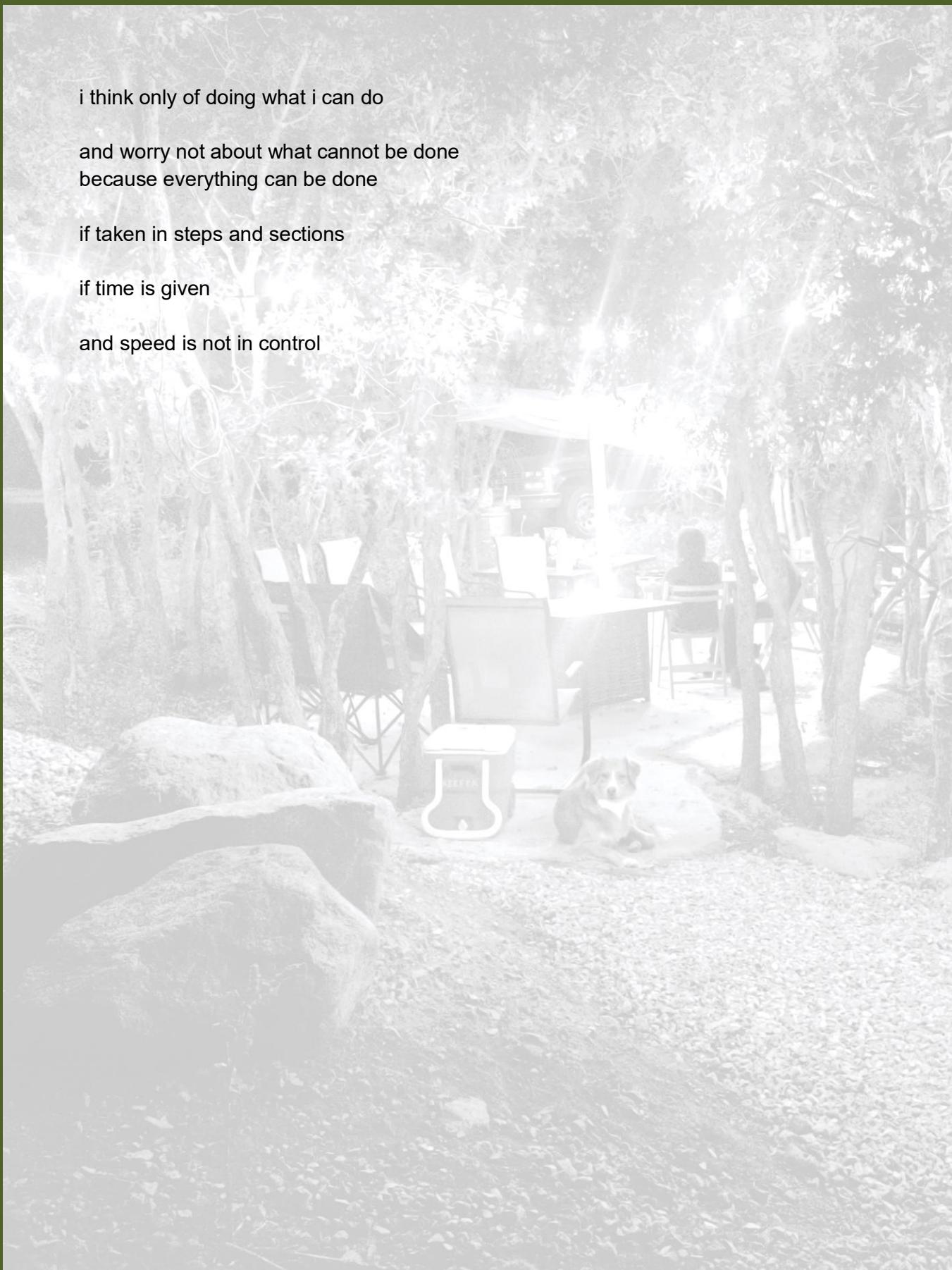
i think only of doing what i can do

and worry not about what cannot be done  
because everything can be done

if taken in steps and sections

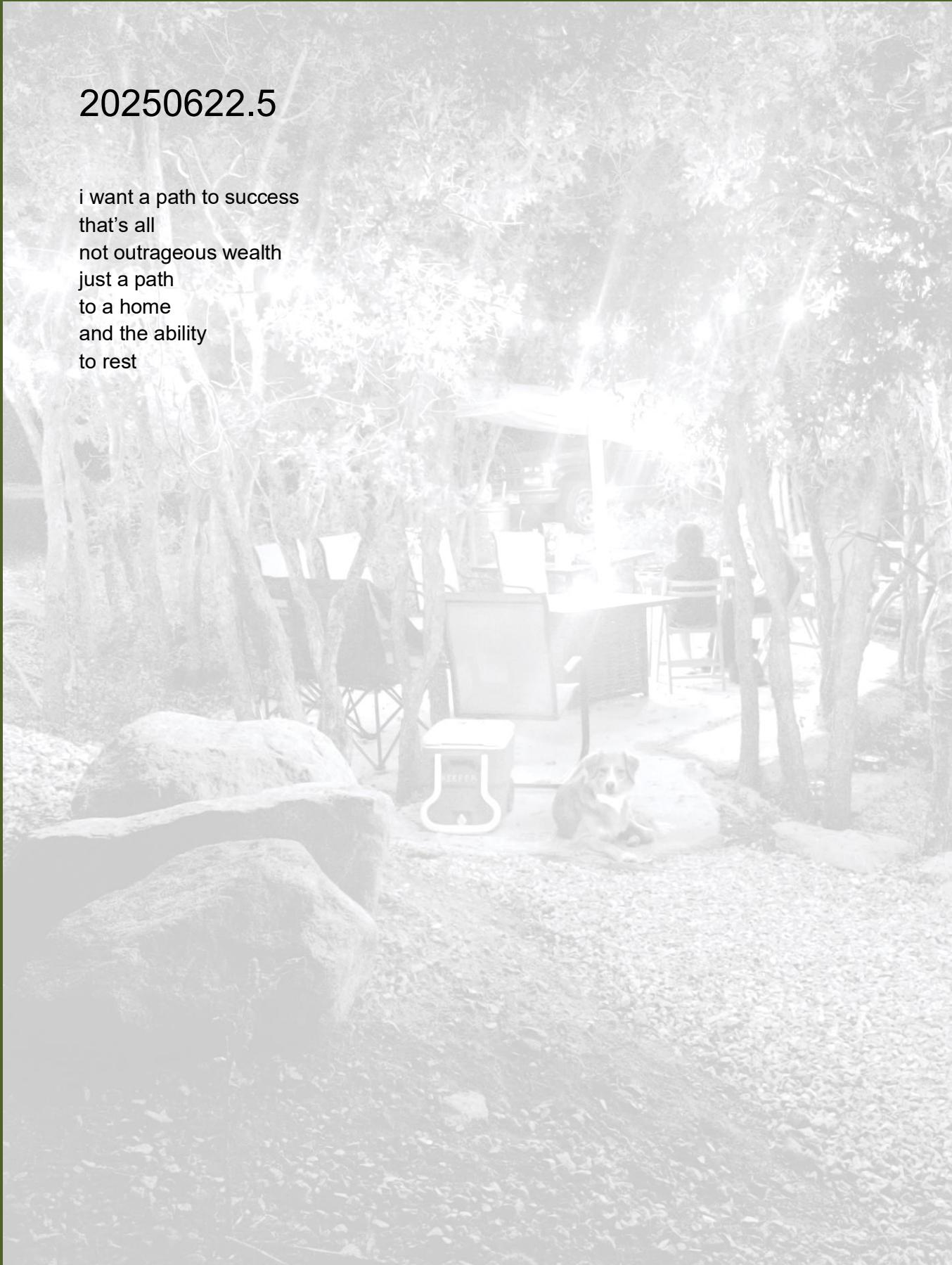
if time is given

and speed is not in control



20250622.5

i want a path to success  
that's all  
not outrageous wealth  
just a path  
to a home  
and the ability  
to rest



## 20250702.1

east side sandy in the 1970s  
was open fields  
dirt roads  
no fences

and houses shooting up  
like corn rows in salt lake valley farms  
off interstate 15

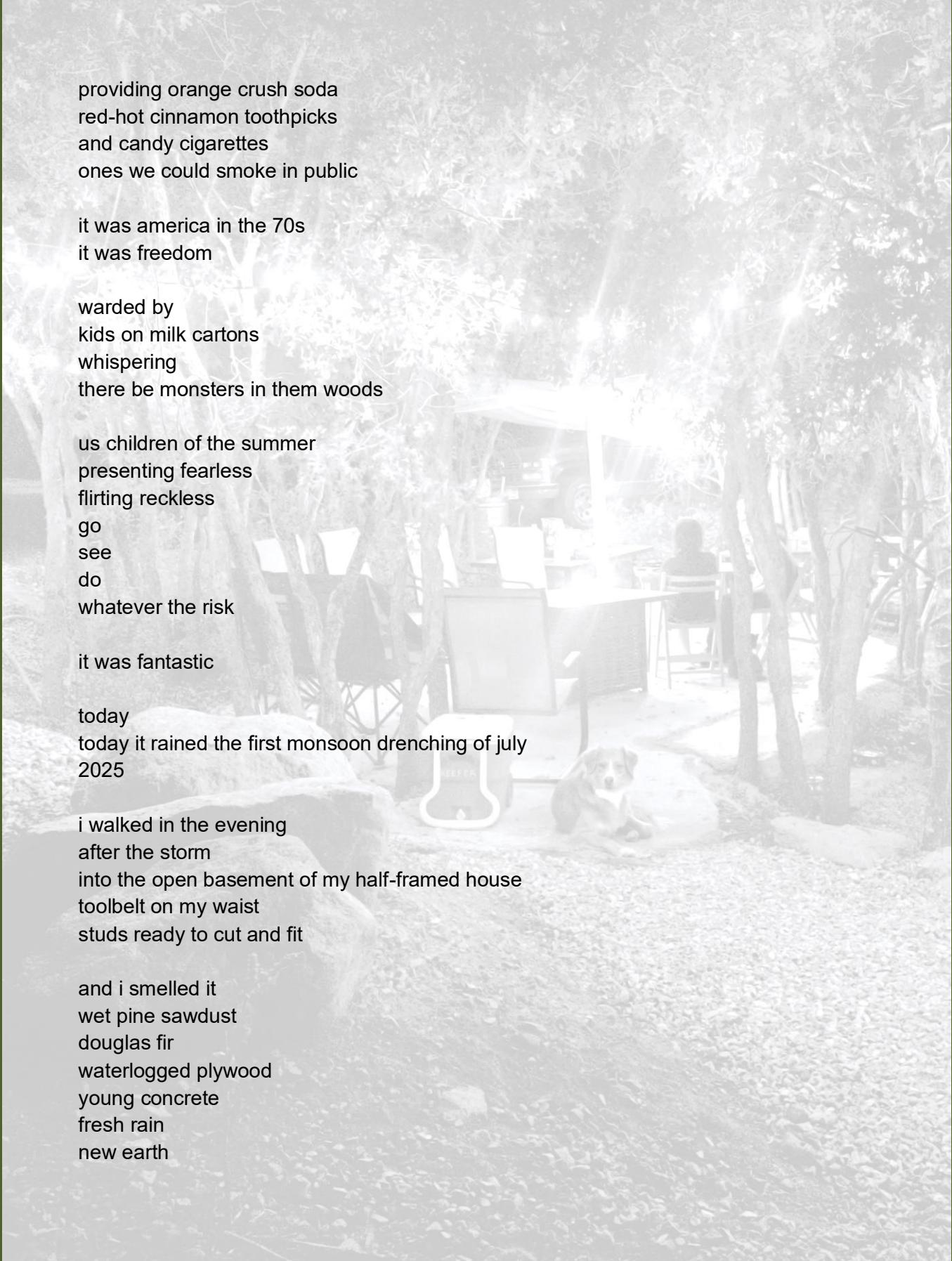
i loved it  
i was a boy  
with little supervision  
a brother my age  
and friends

in the evenings  
we explored home construction sites  
after the workers left

little pirates raiding lonely ships  
  
excavated holes  
concrete foundations  
stick frames  
the adventures we enjoyed

we took our loot  
half-packs of cigarettes  
stashed in secret  
forbidden fruit

empty beer bottles and cans  
collected by the dozens  
hauled in bags swinging from bicycle handlebars  
to the 7-11 the next day  
cash value



providing orange crush soda  
red-hot cinnamon toothpicks  
and candy cigarettes  
ones we could smoke in public

it was america in the 70s  
it was freedom

warded by  
kids on milk cartons  
whispering  
there be monsters in them woods

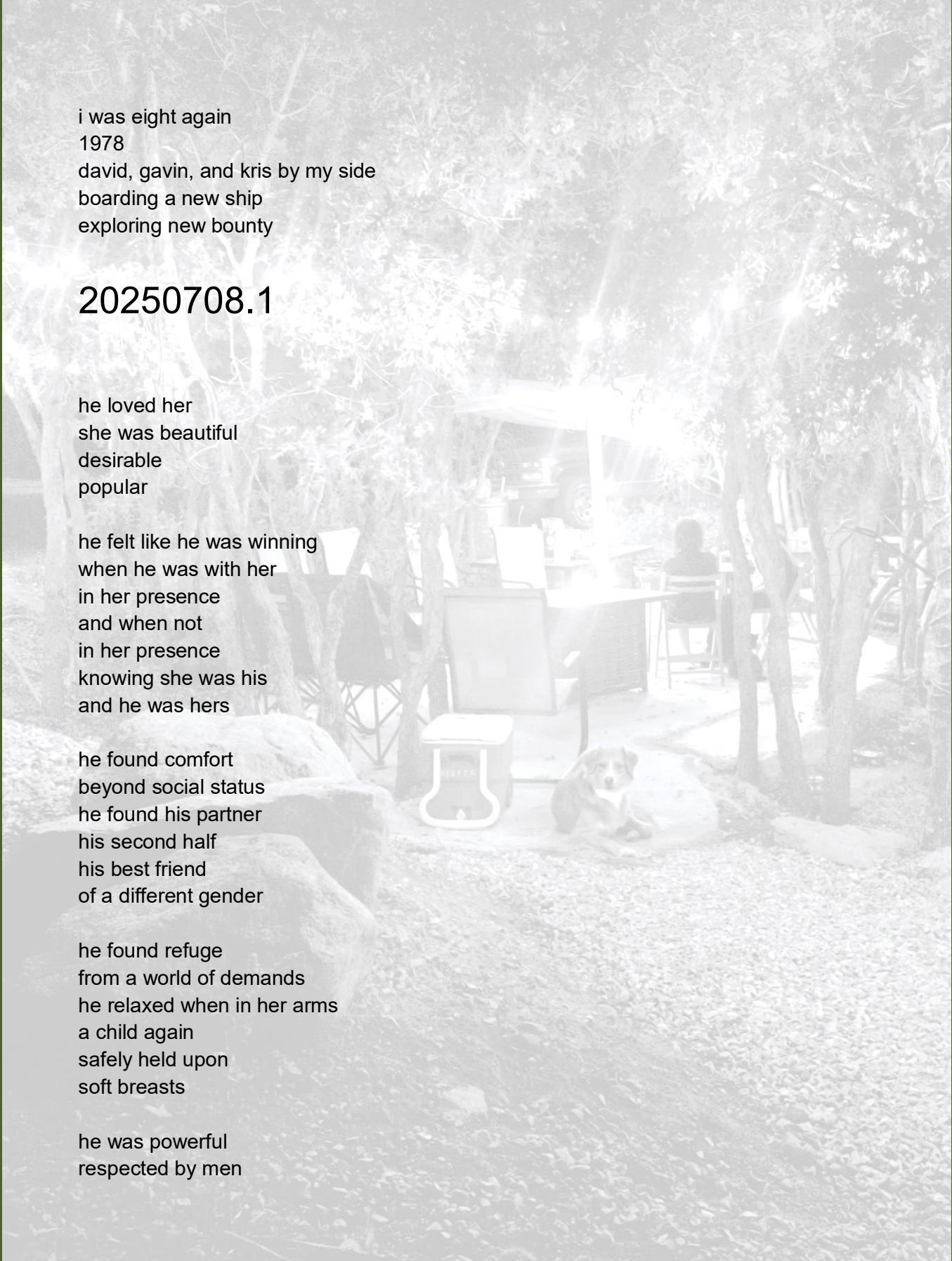
us children of the summer  
presenting fearless  
flirting reckless  
go  
see  
do  
whatever the risk

it was fantastic

today  
today it rained the first monsoon drenching of july  
2025

i walked in the evening  
after the storm  
into the open basement of my half-framed house  
toolbelt on my waist  
studs ready to cut and fit

and i smelled it  
wet pine sawdust  
douglas fir  
waterlogged plywood  
young concrete  
fresh rain  
new earth



i was eight again  
1978  
david, gavin, and kris by my side  
boarding a new ship  
exploring new bounty

20250708.1

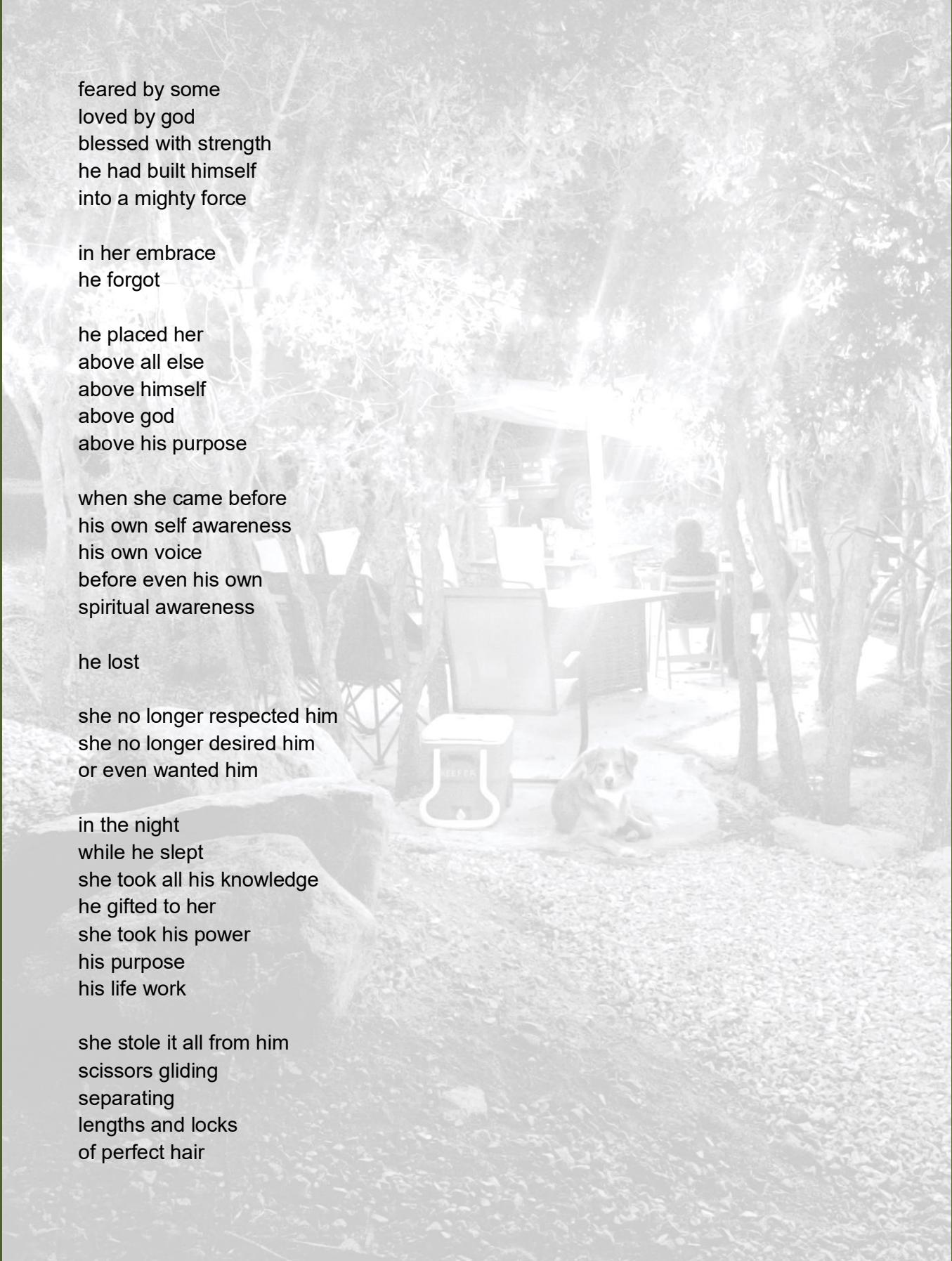
he loved her  
she was beautiful  
desirable  
popular

he felt like he was winning  
when he was with her  
in her presence  
and when not  
in her presence  
knowing she was his  
and he was hers

he found comfort  
beyond social status  
he found his partner  
his second half  
his best friend  
of a different gender

he found refuge  
from a world of demands  
he relaxed when in her arms  
a child again  
safely held upon  
soft breasts

he was powerful  
respected by men



feared by some  
loved by god  
blessed with strength  
he had built himself  
into a mighty force

in her embrace  
he forgot

he placed her  
above all else  
above himself  
above god  
above his purpose

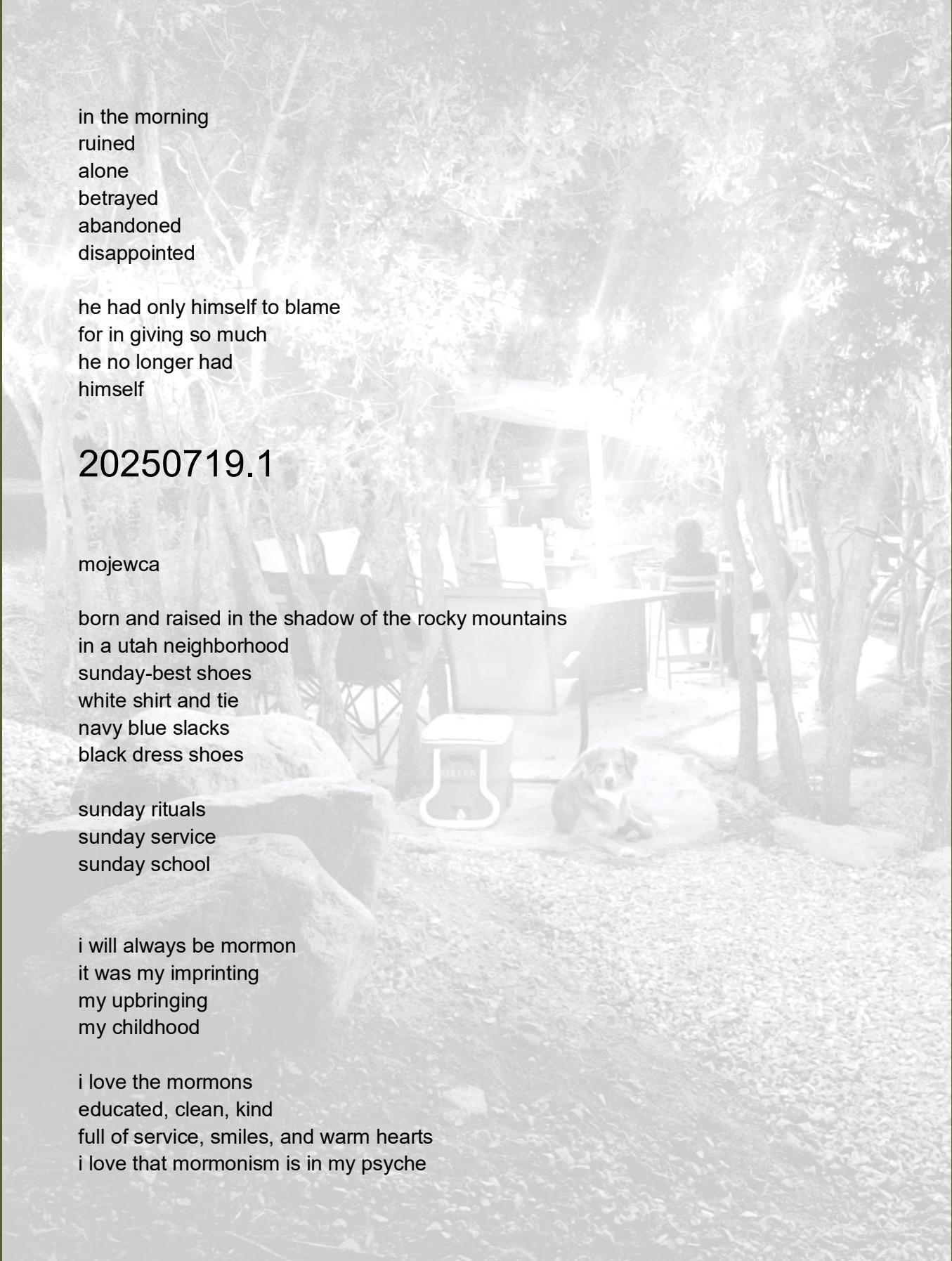
when she came before  
his own self awareness  
his own voice  
before even his own  
spiritual awareness

he lost

she no longer respected him  
she no longer desired him  
or even wanted him

in the night  
while he slept  
she took all his knowledge  
he gifted to her  
she took his power  
his purpose  
his life work

she stole it all from him  
scissors gliding  
separating  
lengths and locks  
of perfect hair



in the morning  
ruined  
alone  
betrayed  
abandoned  
disappointed

he had only himself to blame  
for in giving so much  
he no longer had  
himself

20250719.1

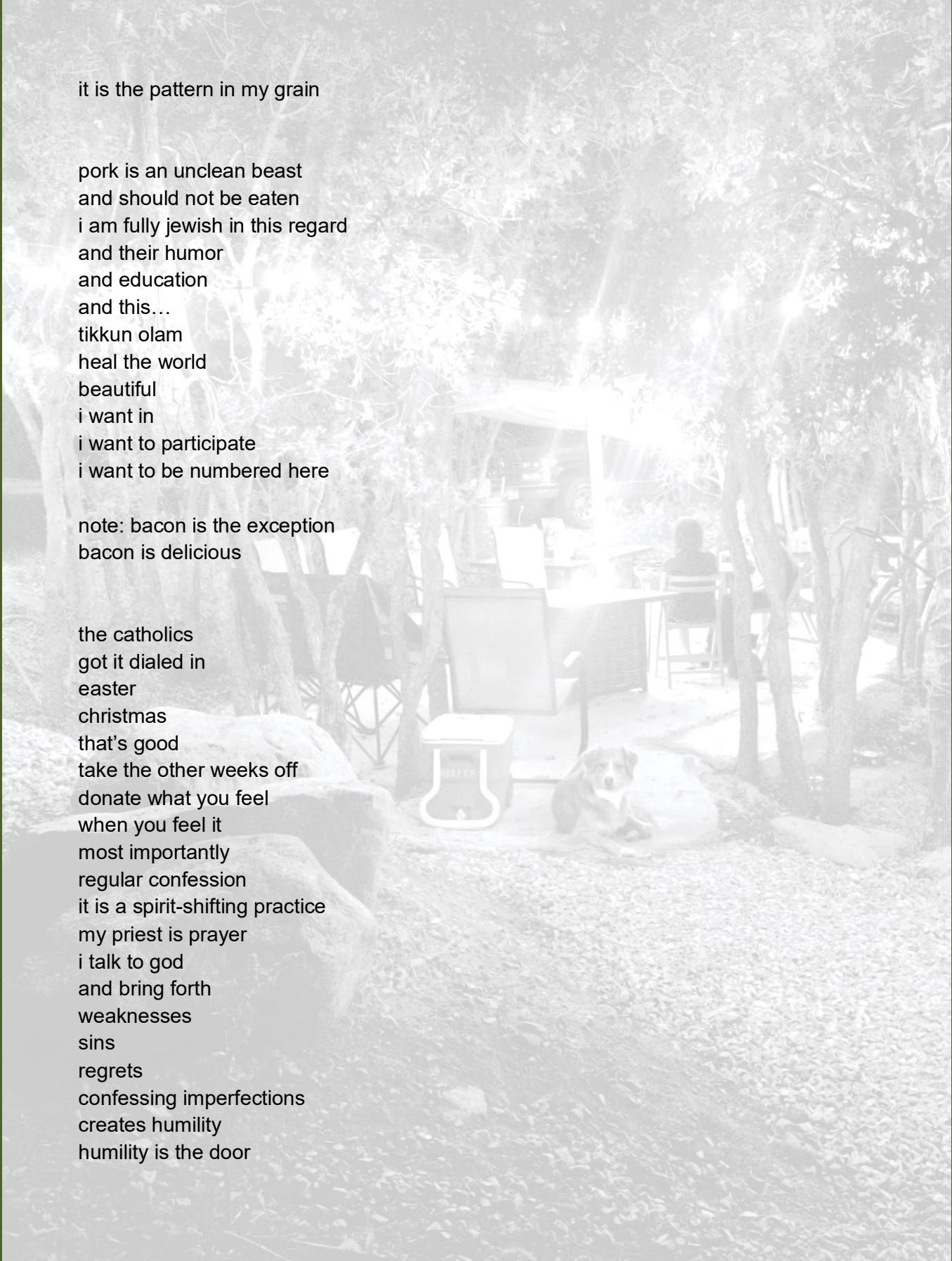
mojewca

born and raised in the shadow of the rocky mountains  
in a utah neighborhood  
sunday-best shoes  
white shirt and tie  
navy blue slacks  
black dress shoes

sunday rituals  
sunday service  
sunday school

i will always be mormon  
it was my imprinting  
my upbringing  
my childhood

i love the mormons  
educated, clean, kind  
full of service, smiles, and warm hearts  
i love that mormonism is in my psyche



it is the pattern in my grain

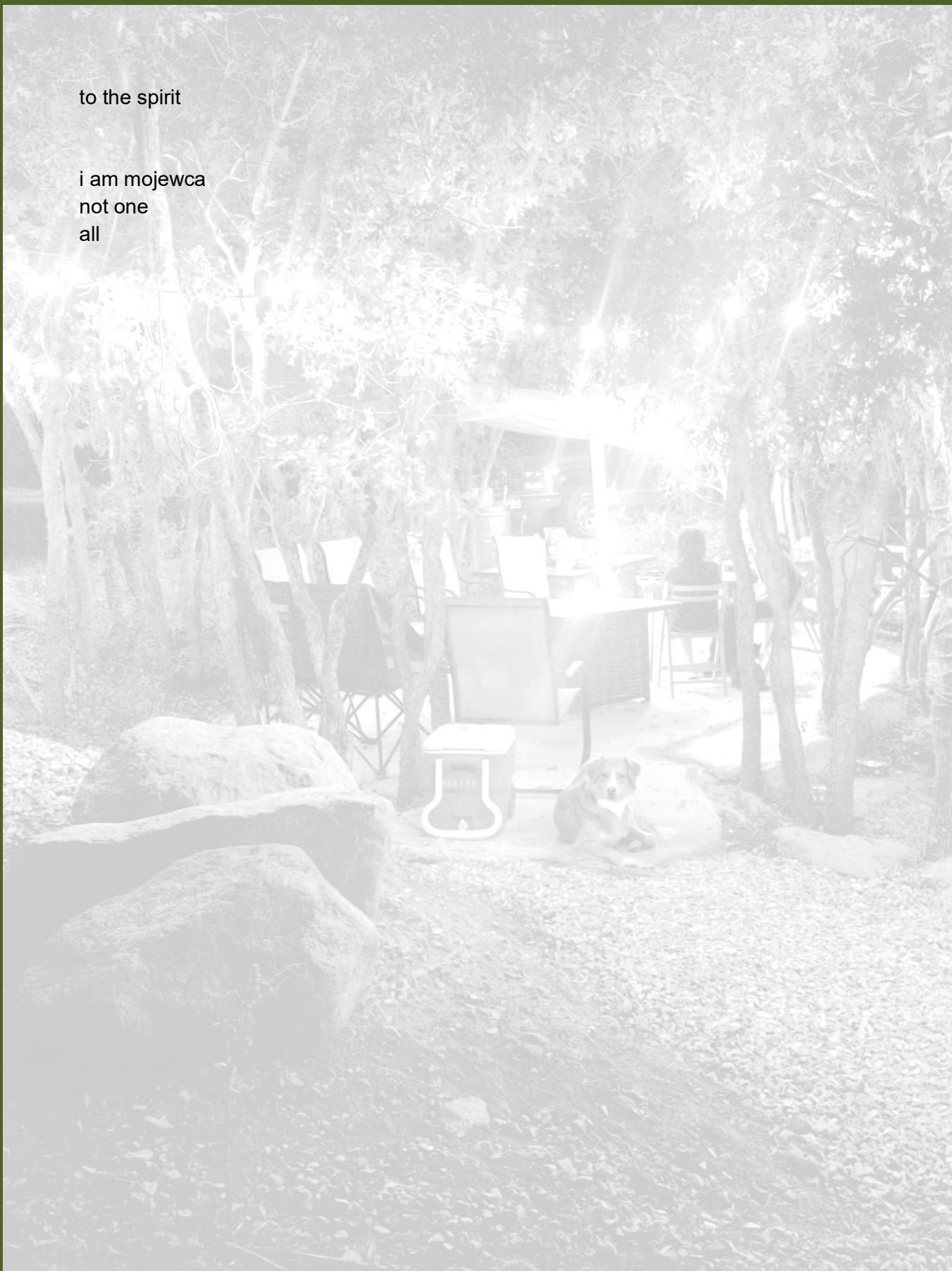
pork is an unclean beast  
and should not be eaten  
i am fully jewish in this regard  
and their humor  
and education  
and this...  
tikkun olam  
heal the world  
beautiful  
i want in  
i want to participate  
i want to be numbered here

note: bacon is the exception  
bacon is delicious

the catholics  
got it dialed in  
easter  
christmas  
that's good  
take the other weeks off  
donate what you feel  
when you feel it  
most importantly  
regular confession  
it is a spirit-shifting practice  
my priest is prayer  
i talk to god  
and bring forth  
weaknesses  
sins  
regrets  
confessing imperfections  
creates humility  
humility is the door

to the spirit

i am mojewca  
not one  
all



20250813.1

i don't know how

how to

give it all

give up everything i was

donate everything i am

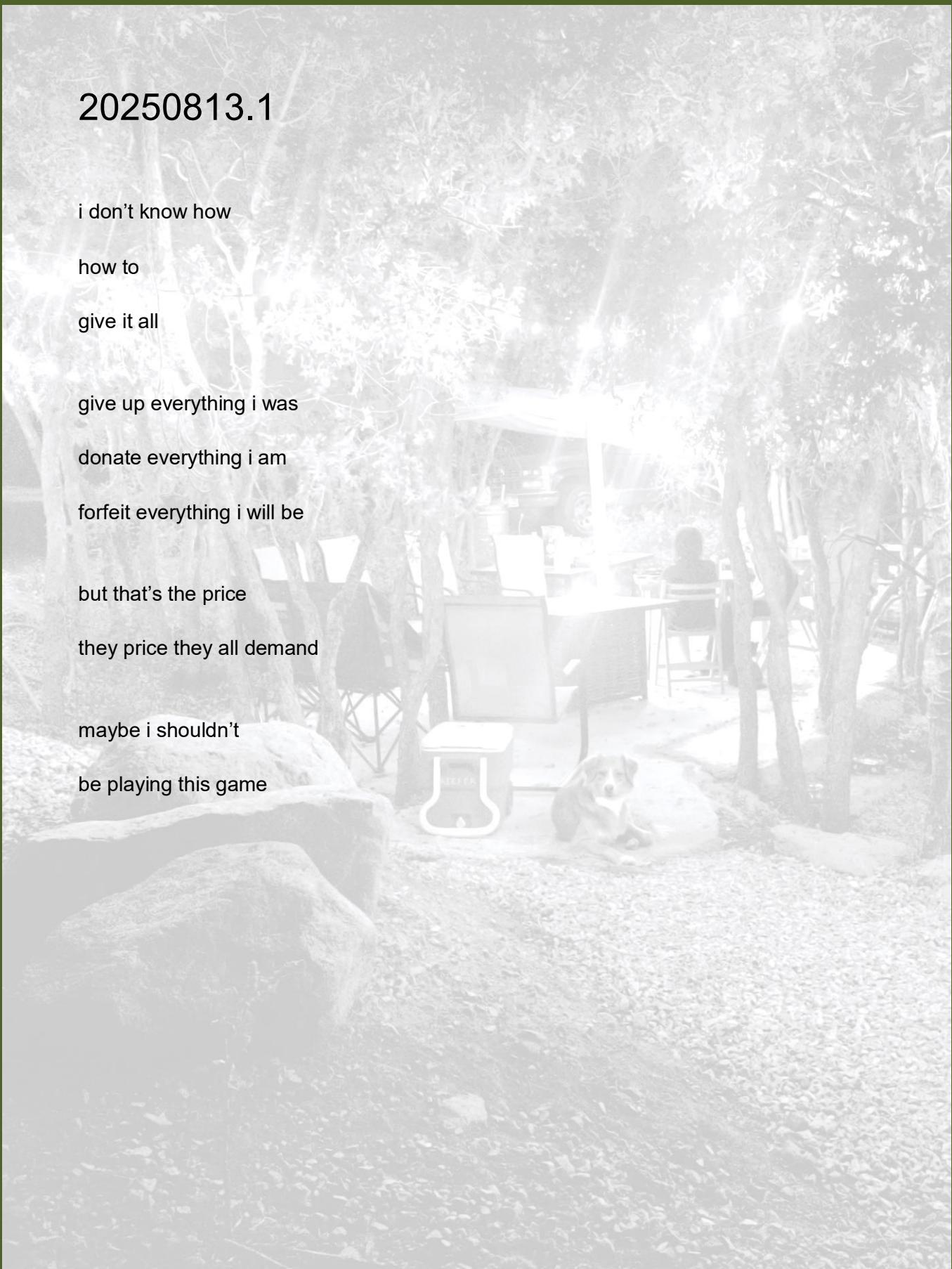
forfeit everything i will be

but that's the price

they price they all demand

maybe i shouldn't

be playing this game



## 20250814.1

i'm a world away from my thoughts  
screens and work and building  
consumes every minute

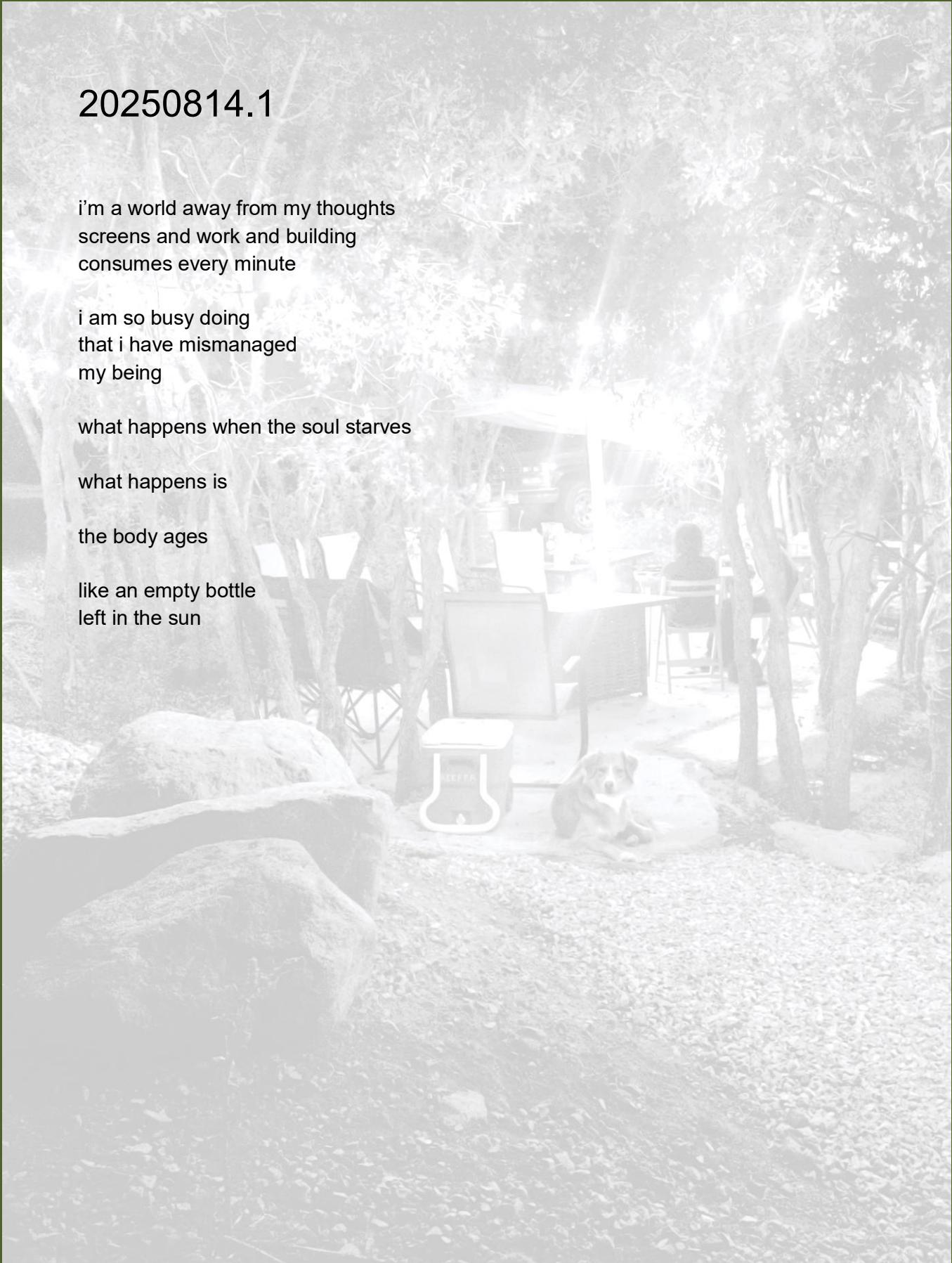
i am so busy doing  
that i have mismanaged  
my being

what happens when the soul starves

what happens is

the body ages

like an empty bottle  
left in the sun



## 20250817.1

mountain animals

live in the food chain

exist void of medical services

burn the days

unclothed and rudimentarily sheltered

life spans typically shorter than mechanically possible

if the mountain animals were smarter

they would protest

pass laws

implement social safeguards

incorporate

unionize

colonize

insure

tax and govern

build walls

segregate

adjudicate

and incarcerate

if mountain animals were smarter

they would fuck it all up

am i honest enough

to forego extra years of old age

bypass years of sickness

avoid financial burden

truncate suffering

and live my final days in nature

where the food chain brings me back

into the natural cycle

brings me back

home

20250823.1

i am the fruit of the universe.  
my very being is the universe manifest

there is nothing i could  
have  
gain  
or lose  
that is greater than what I already am

the equation was solved when  
i closed my eyes and looked inward  
and found the source from which I came  
and the very source to which i belong

the spirit  
the universal being  
the soul's voice  
they have answered

and that answer  
by myself i am enough

no person will bring the answer  
because there is no question

i choose to be with a partner  
because earth benefits from rain  
because clouds and sun together are the sunset  
the body excites and calms with touch  
the mind enjoys play  
and the heart rests with warmth

when i seek the company of others  
it is to enjoy wine and the joy of being alive  
the universe gifted me a body for a season

i will use it to dance  
to share  
and to love



## 20250905.1

i have not written in a long time

i feel like something is being missed  
like there is a message  
a lesson  
a truth  
that i was to discover  
a shaft of light  
to illuminate my path  
elevate my soul

that i have denied myself

like teeth not brushed get thick and gross  
a body not washed stinks

i feel my being  
is less than  
is stuck

because

i have not paused

and listened intently

to silence

and written

## 20250908.1

do you really want to be with me

i pause  
often  
to reach

to reflect  
to remember  
to bring reverence  
to moments

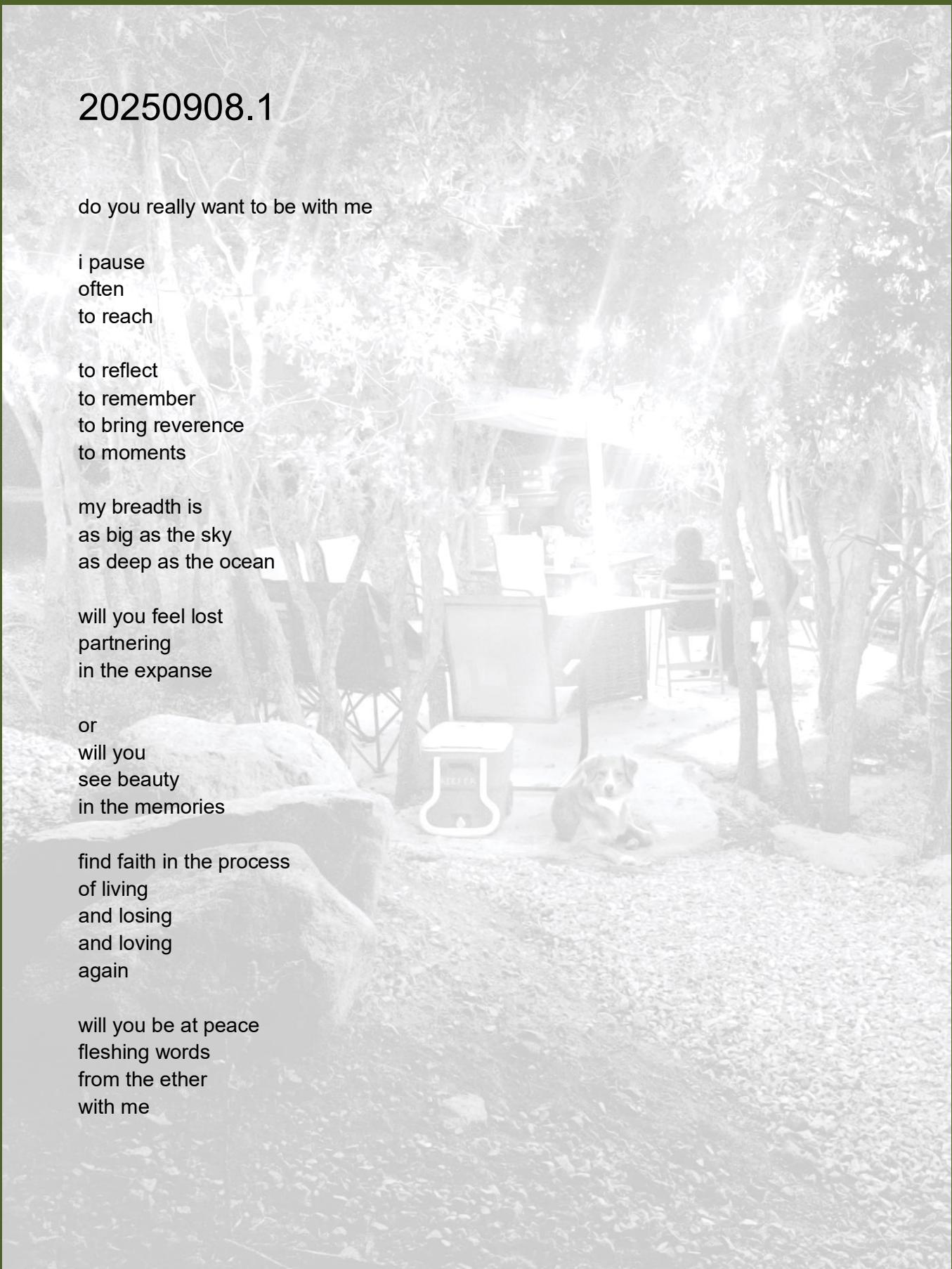
my breadth is  
as big as the sky  
as deep as the ocean

will you feel lost  
partnering  
in the expanse

or  
will you  
see beauty  
in the memories

find faith in the process  
of living  
and losing  
and loving  
again

will you be at peace  
fleshing words  
from the ether  
with me





20250909.1

eagle mountain  
transferred ownership today

debts addressed

heber is secure

the first time in 2.5 years  
this has been true

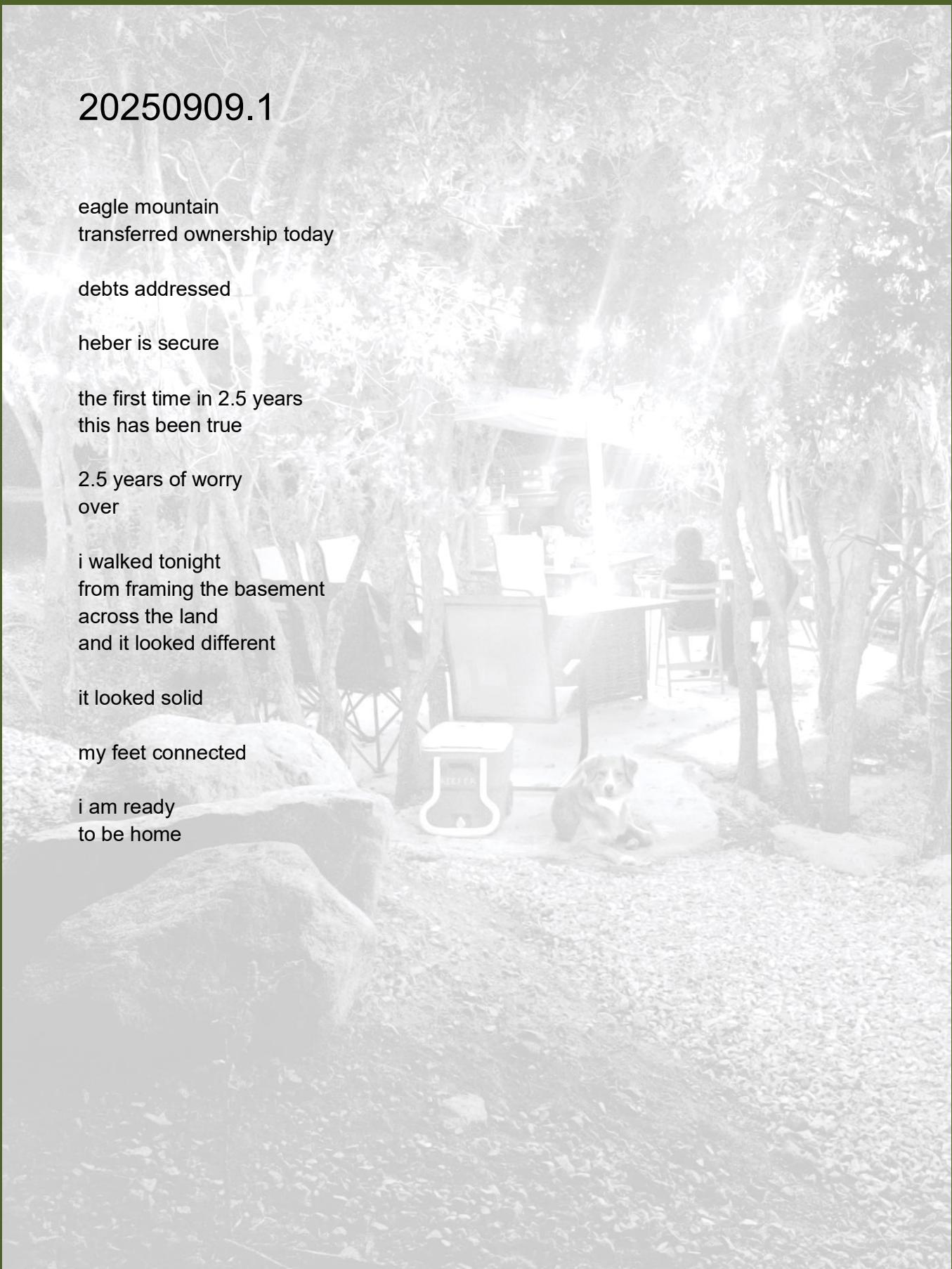
2.5 years of worry  
over

i walked tonight  
from framing the basement  
across the land  
and it looked different

it looked solid

my feet connected

i am ready  
to be home



## 20250923.1

when i was a child  
in prayer  
i asked for things desired

when i was a young man  
i prayed for answers  
direction

in hindsight  
the thing desired  
may  
or may not  
have arrived

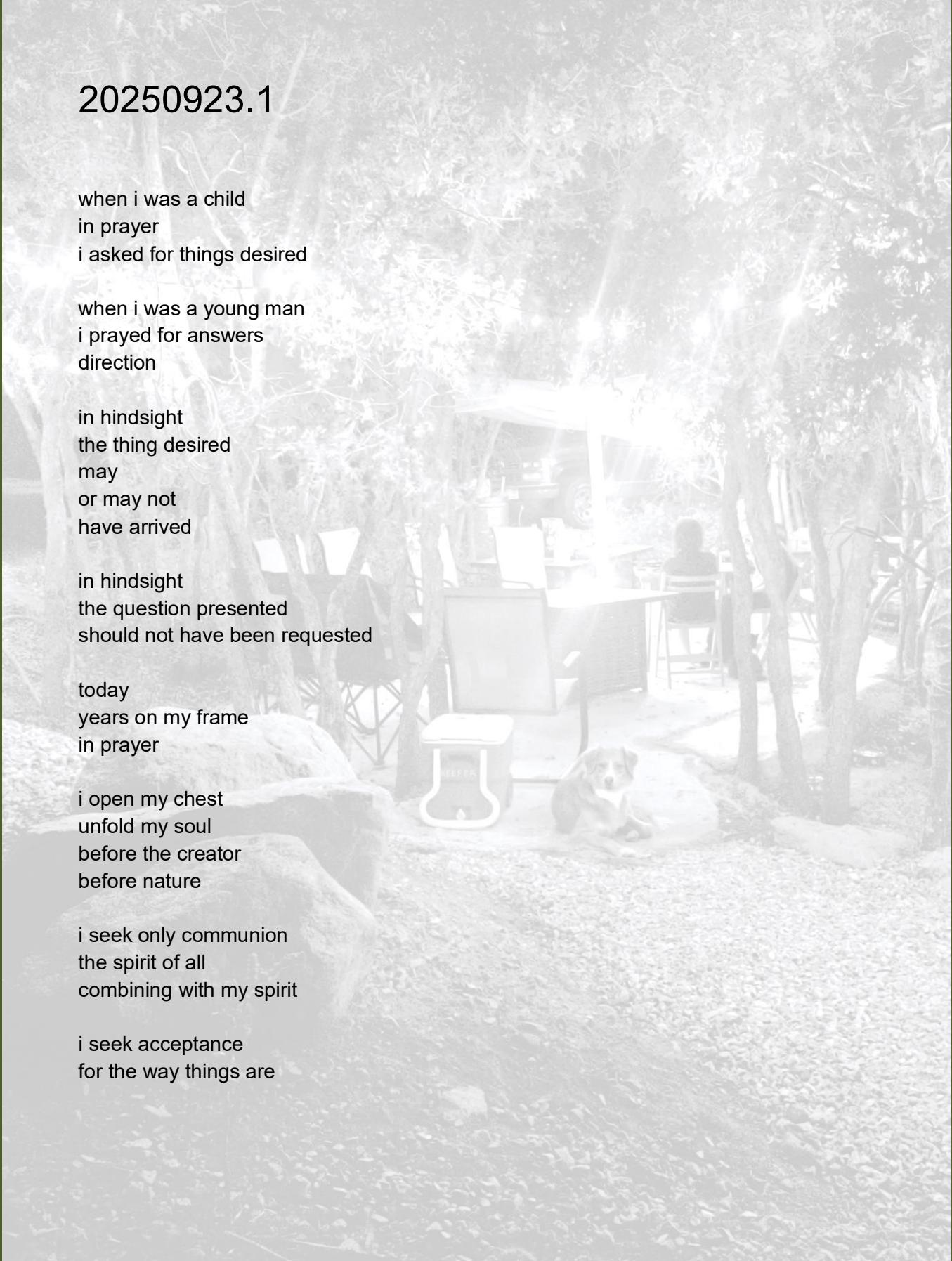
in hindsight  
the question presented  
should not have been requested

today  
years on my frame  
in prayer

i open my chest  
unfold my soul  
before the creator  
before nature

i seek only communion  
the spirit of all  
combining with my spirit

i seek acceptance  
for the way things are



i seek the spirit  
to walk my path with me

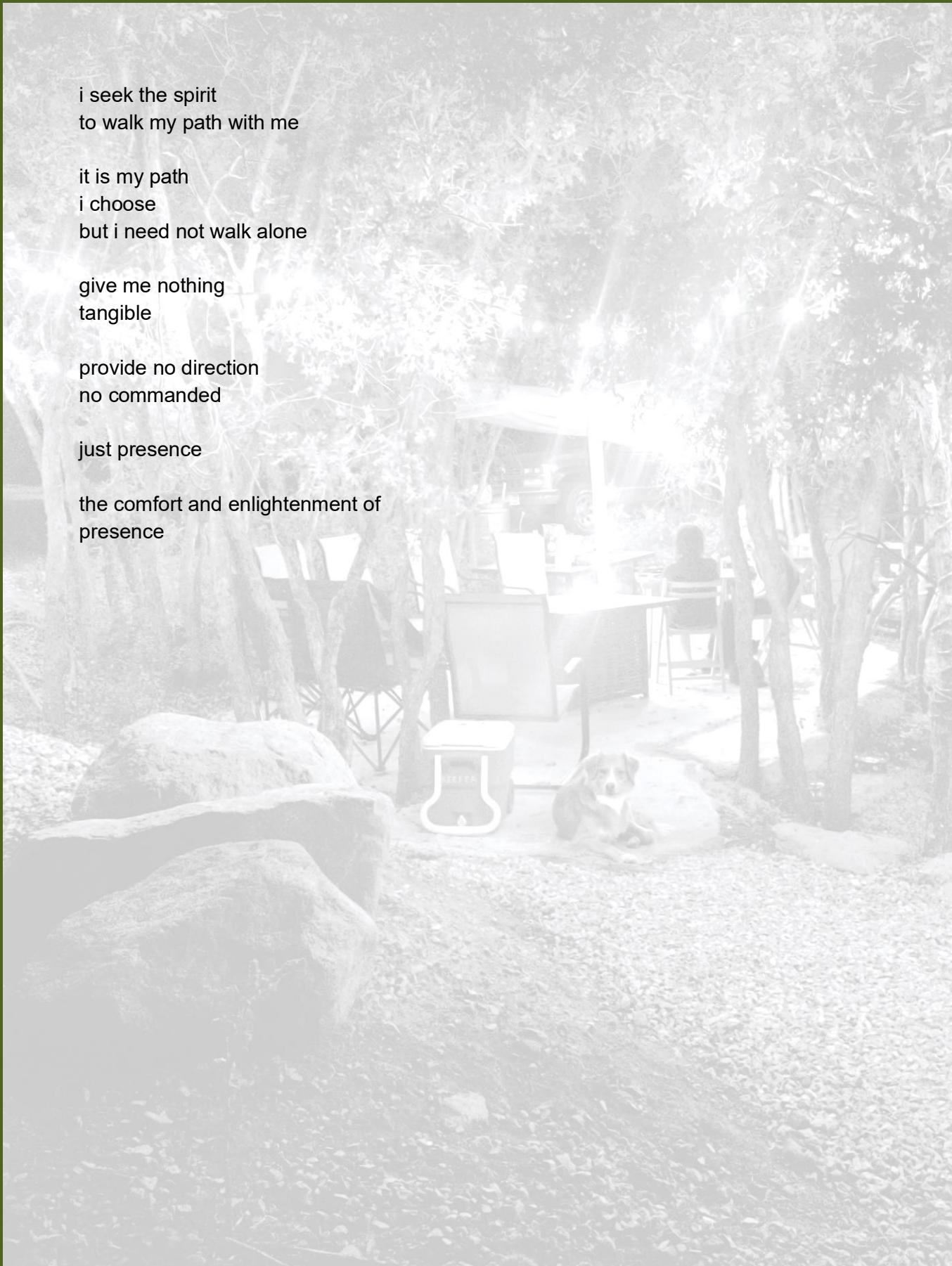
it is my path  
i choose  
but i need not walk alone

give me nothing  
tangible

provide no direction  
no commanded

just presence

the comfort and enlightenment of  
presence



## 20250924.1

when does life begin

at conception

before conception in a different dimension

upon the first heartbeat

the first breath

the first kiss

the first laugh

the first heartbreak

or in the moments when you grew beyond heartbreak

does life begin the day you walk away

or the day you decide to stay

the answer is

life doesn't begin

you are the quantum

part of everything

embedded to everything

you will transform

time does this

spirit to flesh

flesh to spirit

what comes next

well, what fun would that be

to know

everything

how boring

let's enjoy the discovery of the new  
as the new arrives

20250926.1

pick three things  
three things you would not want to live without  
three things that add to what you already have  
three things you cannot fulfill by yourself

find a partner  
that provides these three things

stop here

overburdening expectations  
lengthy demands  
will crush any fun  
smother any love

make a great life for yourself

then add a person who brings to you  
three core beautiful things  
you cannot give yourself

# 20251003.1

## Chapter 1

she  
chinese born  
one child policy  
money on both sides  
finest clothes  
best school supplies  
a new mercedes-benz

but absent parents  
busy with careers  
grandparents and neighbors checking in  
an open tab at the café  
on the ground floor  
her kitchen  
eating alone

excellent instruction  
top shelf education  
enforced lessons

she  
watches her peers playing  
outside her window  
watches laughter  
and childhood conflicts  
and friends making up  
to play longer

she  
wishes  
for these things

## Chapter 2

an obscure city in china  
with an even more obscure sister city in america  
on an indian reservation  
in the middle of nowhere  
in the middle of a nowhere state

a teenage girl meets a native american  
falls in love  
moves back to china  
he visits  
marries  
returns to nowhere

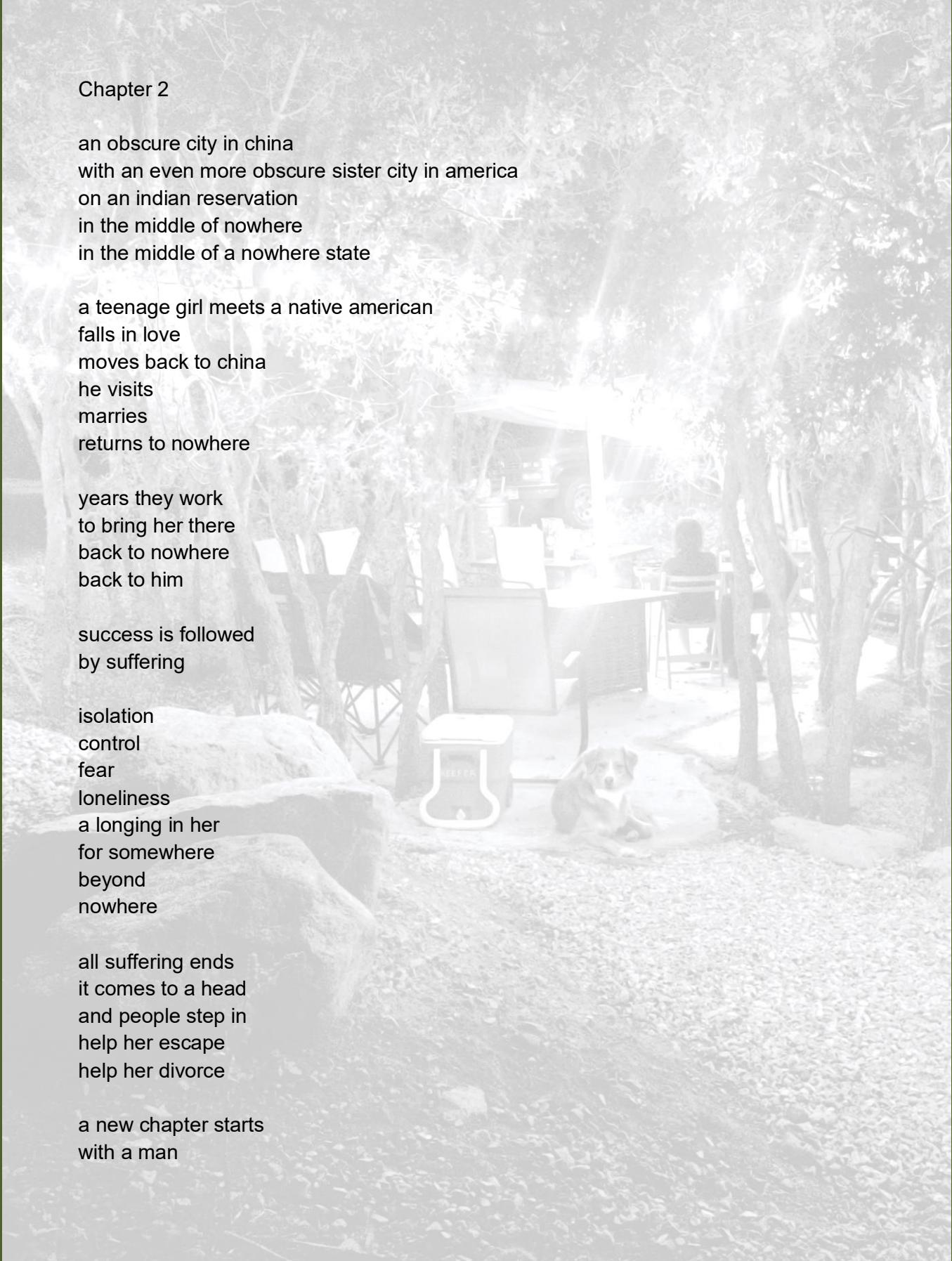
years they work  
to bring her there  
back to nowhere  
back to him

success is followed  
by suffering

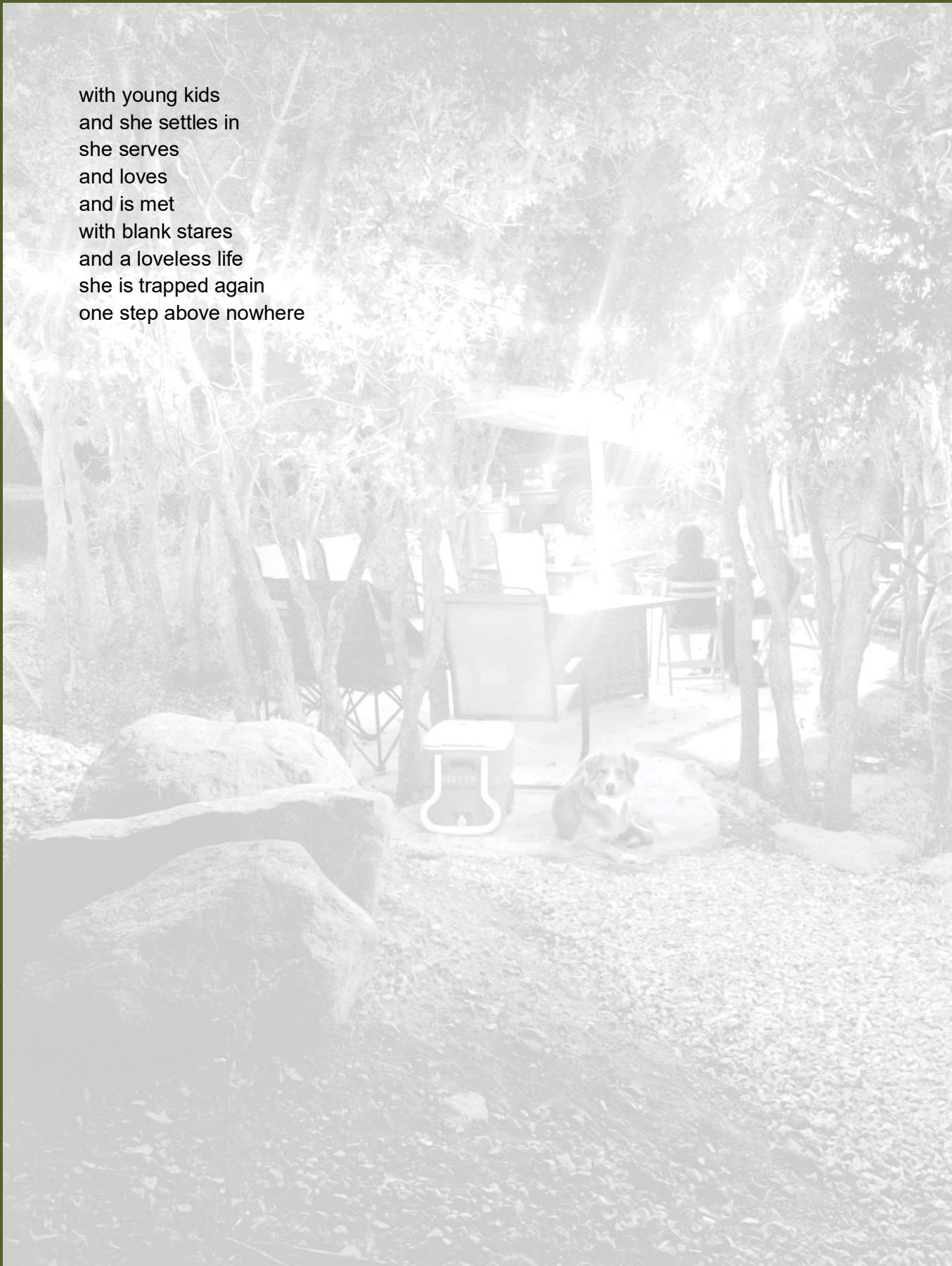
isolation  
control  
fear  
loneliness  
a longing in her  
for somewhere  
beyond  
nowhere

all suffering ends  
it comes to a head  
and people step in  
help her escape  
help her divorce

a new chapter starts  
with a man



with young kids  
and she settles in  
she serves  
and loves  
and is met  
with blank stares  
and a loveless life  
she is trapped again  
one step above nowhere



### Chapter 3

she works the most menial jobs  
while learning a skill  
then earns a license  
then leaves

on her own

free  
free to face the harsh realities of life  
a roof  
a car  
food  
insurance  
safety  
no one along her side

she is tested

and she shows up  
she works every day  
but most importantly  
she loves

embraces happy things  
cheerful things  
colorful things

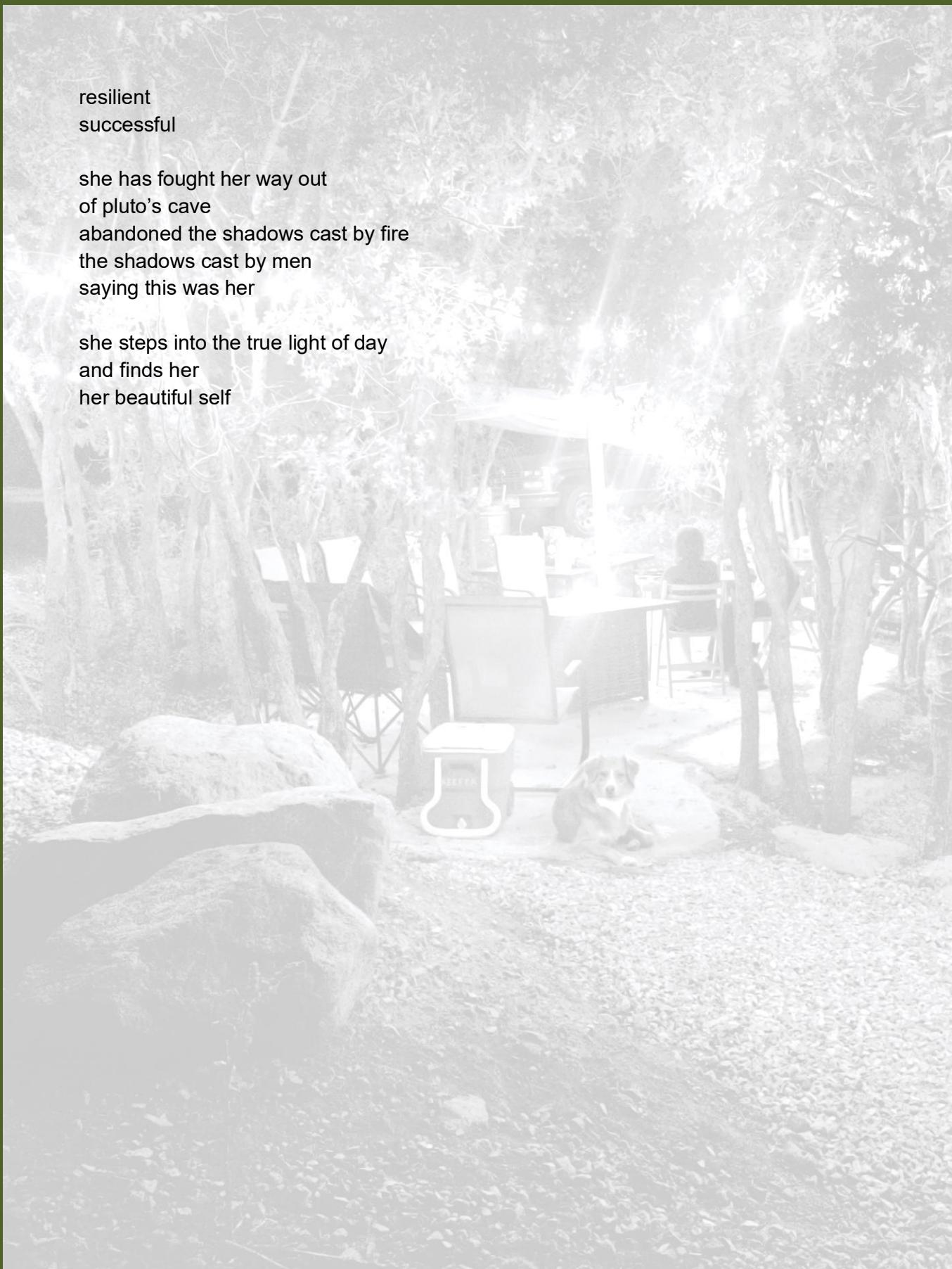
she spreads smiles  
embraces clients  
learns english fluently  
spends every hour of every day  
visiting with women  
about their lives  
their loves  
their trials

she builds herself to be  
strong

resilient  
successful

she has fought her way out  
of pluto's cave  
abandoned the shadows cast by fire  
the shadows cast by men  
saying this was her

she steps into the true light of day  
and finds her  
her beautiful self



## Chapter 4

she meets him  
a mountain poet  
a mortgage banker  
a builder of a cabins in the clouds

and the story now  
is unknown

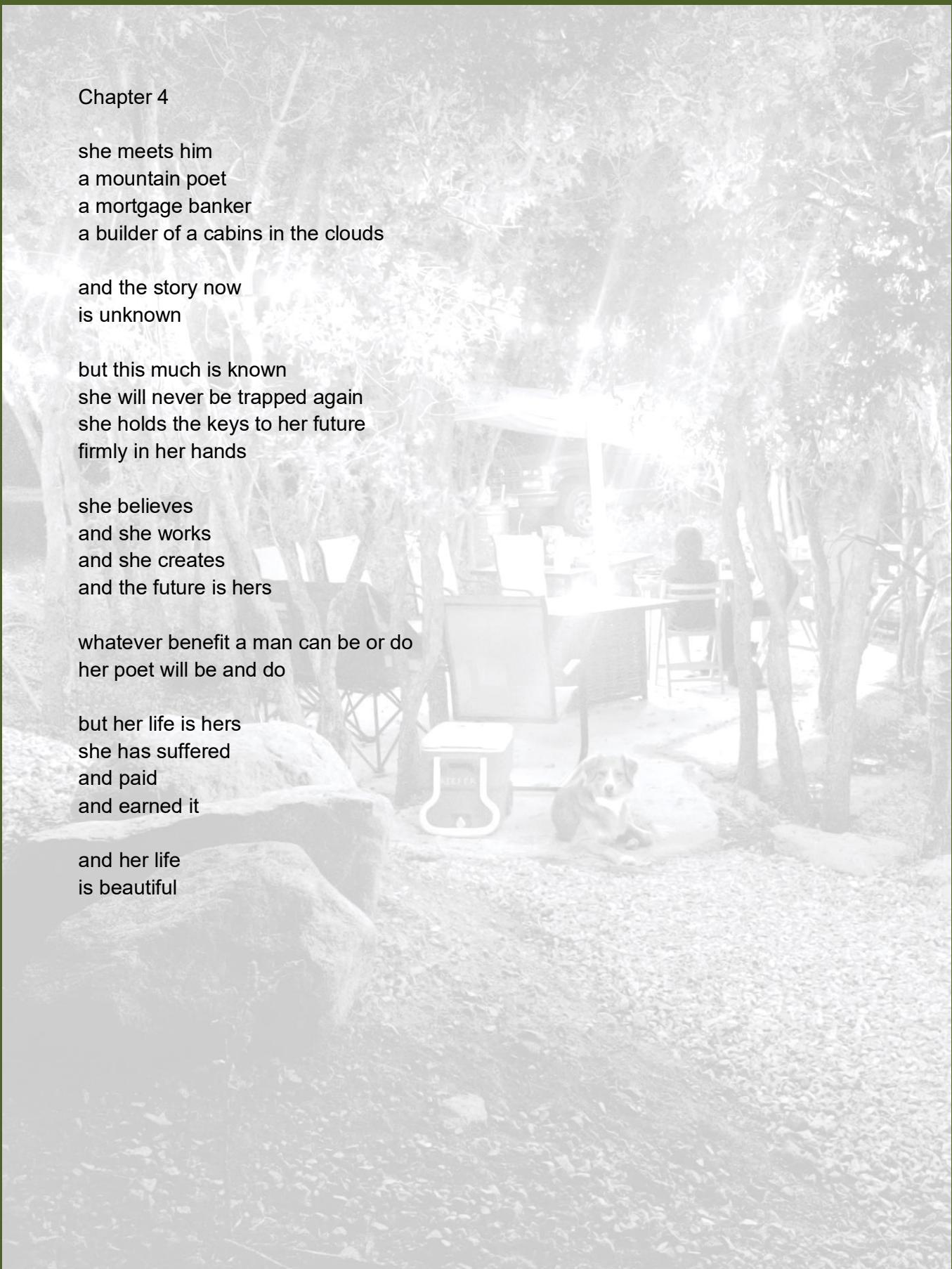
but this much is known  
she will never be trapped again  
she holds the keys to her future  
firmly in her hands

she believes  
and she works  
and she creates  
and the future is hers

whatever benefit a man can be or do  
her poet will be and do

but her life is hers  
she has suffered  
and paid  
and earned it

and her life  
is beautiful



20251014.1

i am outside

what if i

could be paid

to be present

then spend my time

writing

creating

sharing

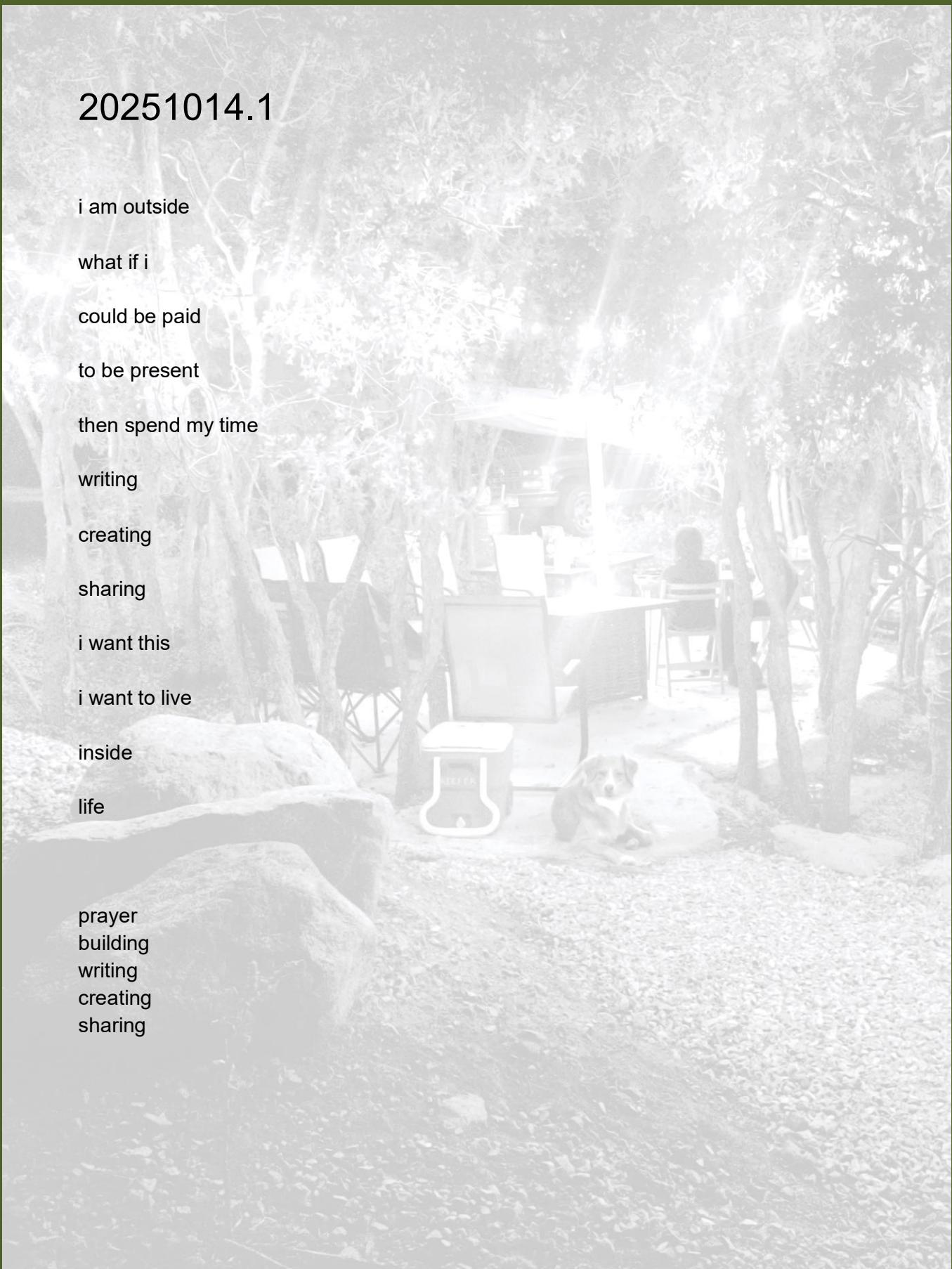
i want this

i want to live

inside

life

prayer  
building  
writing  
creating  
sharing



## 20251015.1

there are parts of me  
i cannot see

but her shadow  
wanders  
in my head

there are parts of me  
i cannot feel

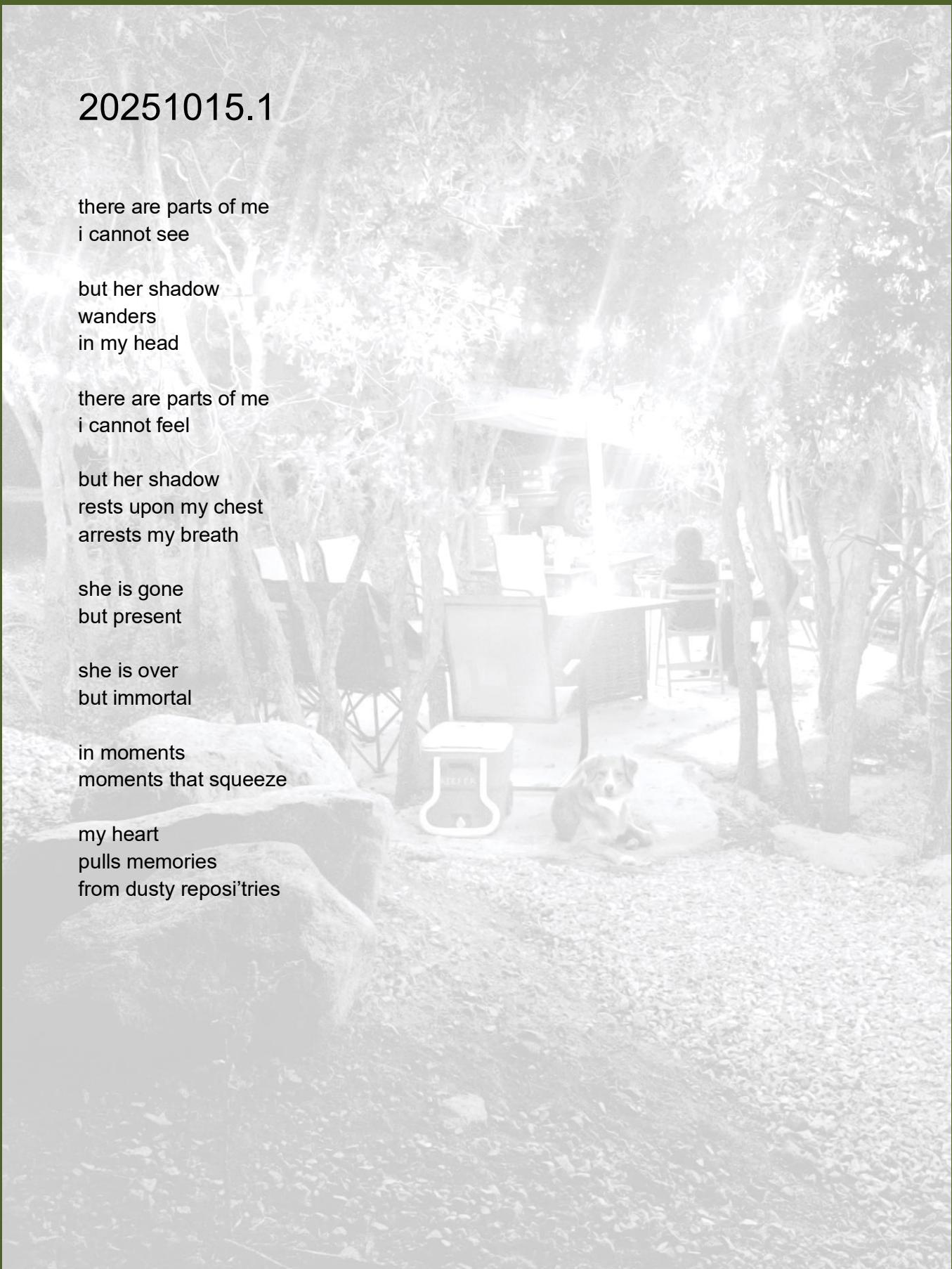
but her shadow  
rests upon my chest  
arrests my breath

she is gone  
but present

she is over  
but immortal

in moments  
moments that squeeze

my heart  
pulls memories  
from dusty reposi'tries

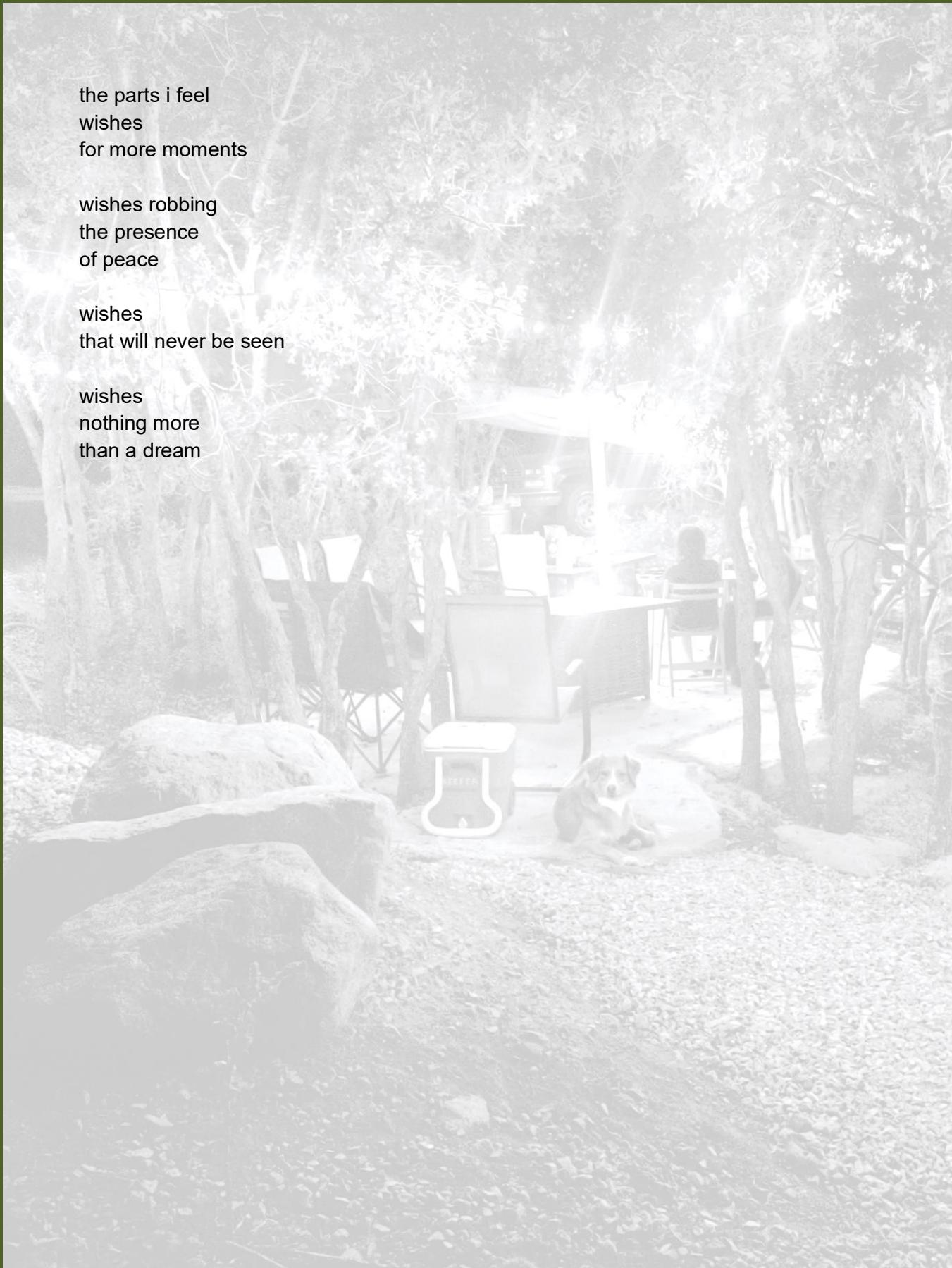


the parts i feel  
wishes  
for more moments

wishes robbing  
the presence  
of peace

wishes  
that will never be seen

wishes  
nothing more  
than a dream



20251015.2

autumn  
tips

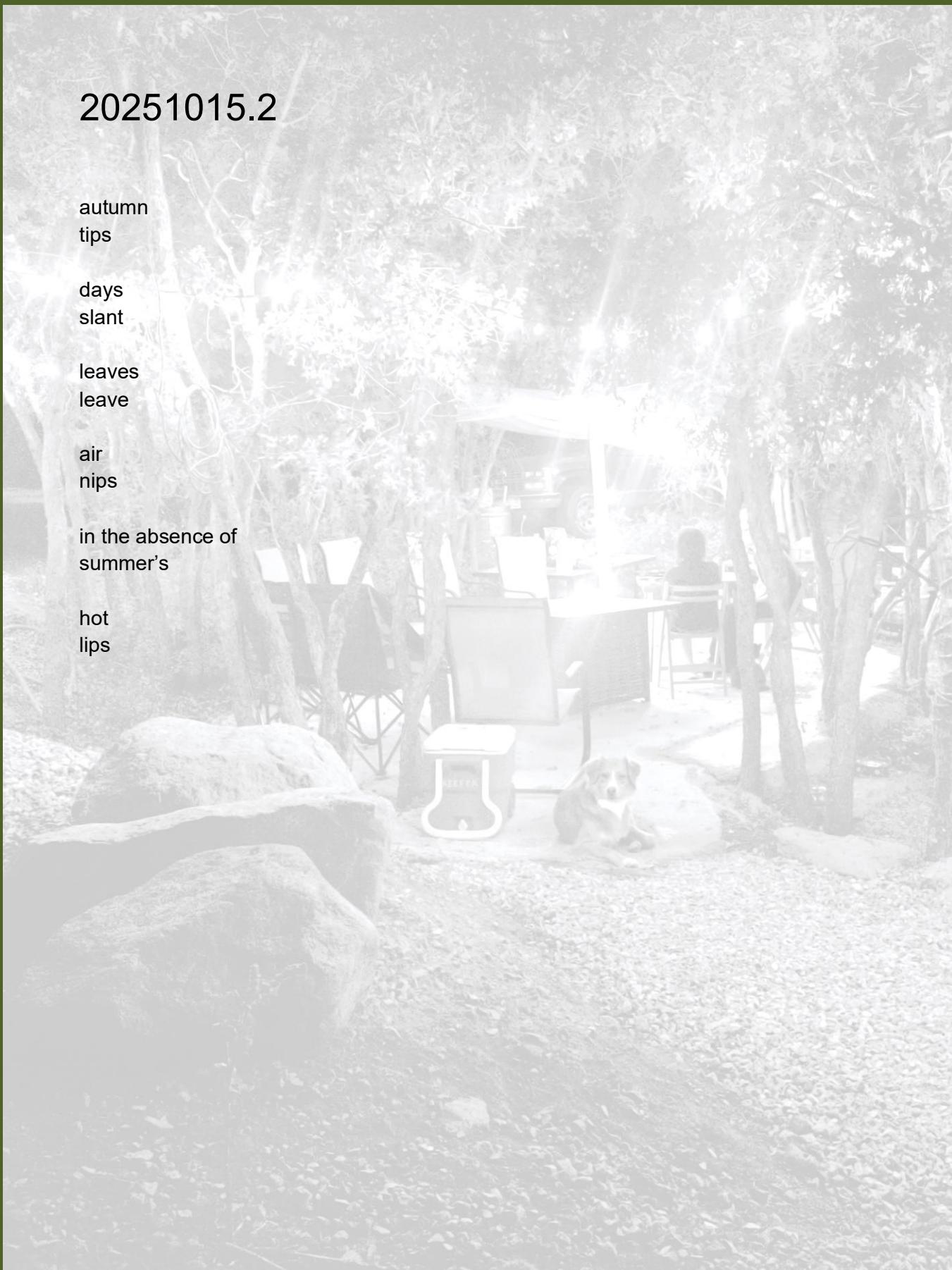
days  
slant

leaves  
leave

air  
nips

in the absence of  
summer's

hot  
lips



## 20251015.3

it's a layer of complexity  
a white blanket of ice  
over everything

it makes the days  
slower  
shorter  
more maintenance  
less production

it makes creatures  
migrate  
south  
makes creatures  
hibernate  
sleep

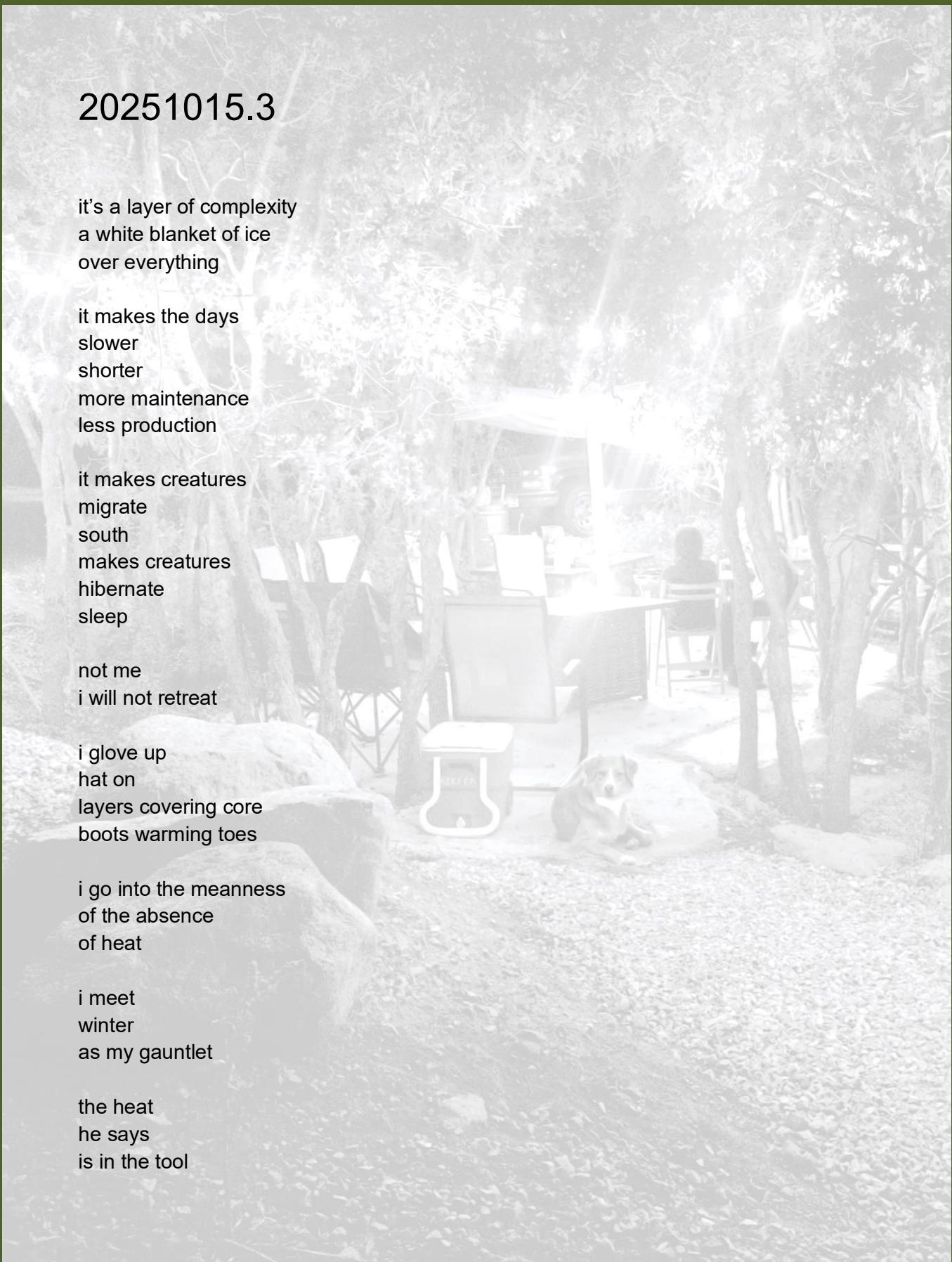
not me  
i will not retreat

i glove up  
hat on  
layers covering core  
boots warming toes

i go into the meanness  
of the absence  
of heat

i meet  
winter  
as my gauntlet

the heat  
he says  
is in the tool

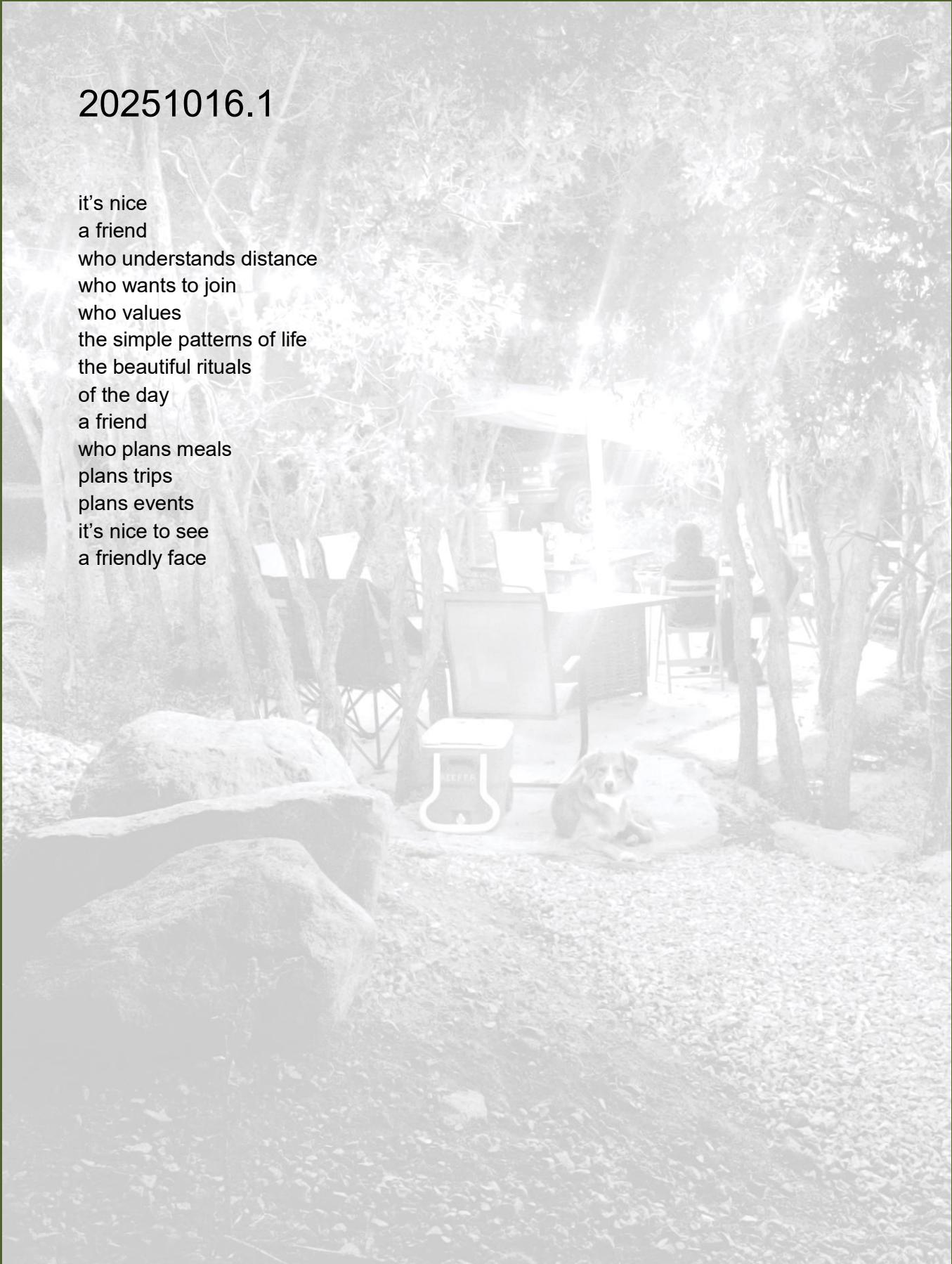


get working



20251016.1

it's nice  
a friend  
who understands distance  
who wants to join  
who values  
the simple patterns of life  
the beautiful rituals  
of the day  
a friend  
who plans meals  
plans trips  
plans events  
it's nice to see  
a friendly face



20251017.1

no one was better than her  
and i did not get to keep her

she left a gap  
a crevasse  
a canyon  
in my mind  
in my heart  
a big fat hole  
in my soul

she was brilliant  
a goddess

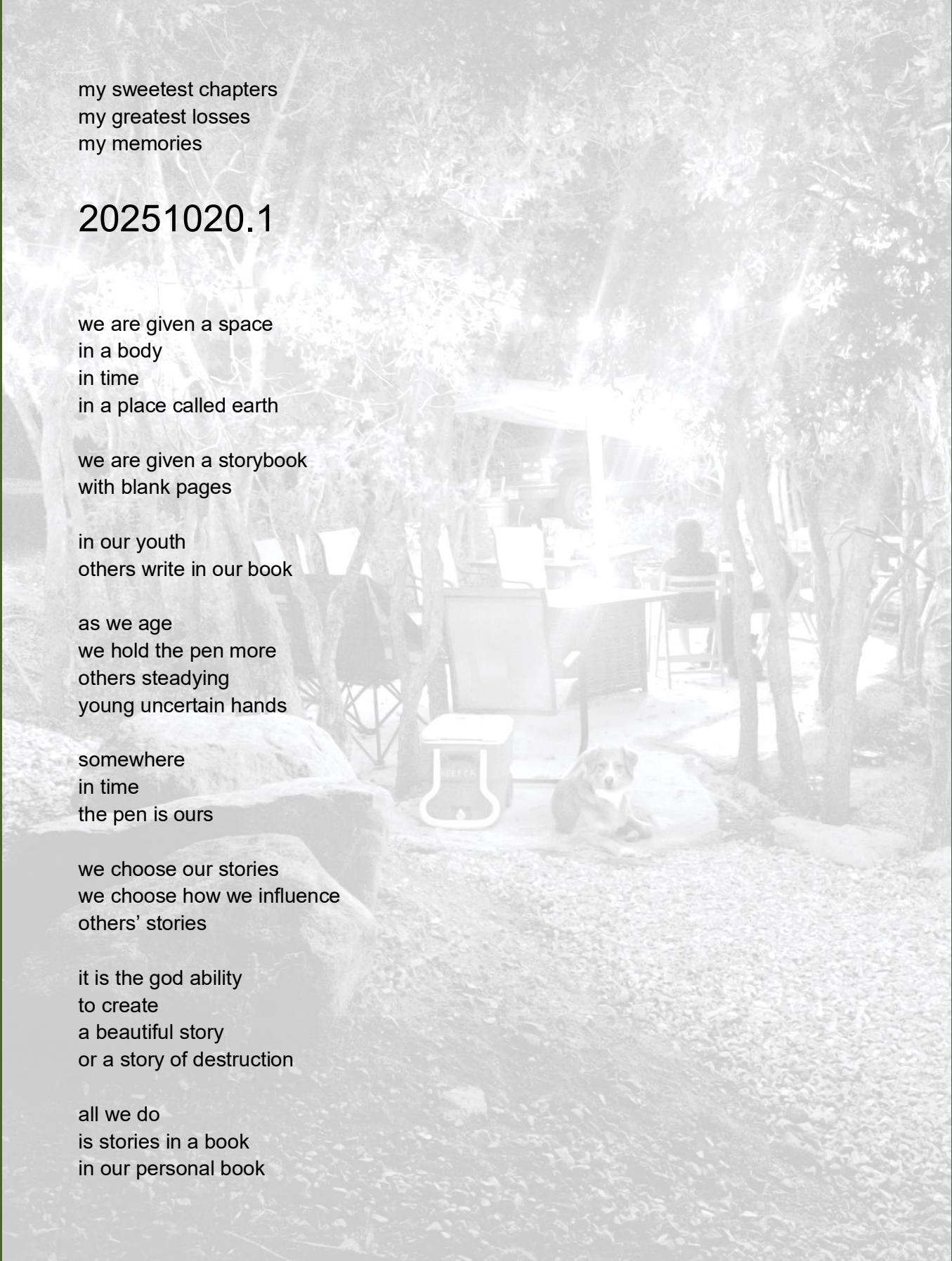
and the days roll forward  
today pretends they never happened  
time thinks it didn't matter  
the present looks about the room  
sees no one  
sees only me  
sees the current empty state

the present day is stupid

just because they are not here  
does not mean they are not present

every feeling  
lives on  
lives strong  
she is in the sunlight on the walls  
she is the space between the halls  
she is the breath i hold in my chest

they are still here  
my deepest loves



my sweetest chapters  
my greatest losses  
my memories

20251020.1

we are given a space  
in a body  
in time  
in a place called earth

we are given a storybook  
with blank pages

in our youth  
others write in our book

as we age  
we hold the pen more  
others steadyng  
young uncertain hands

somewhere  
in time  
the pen is ours

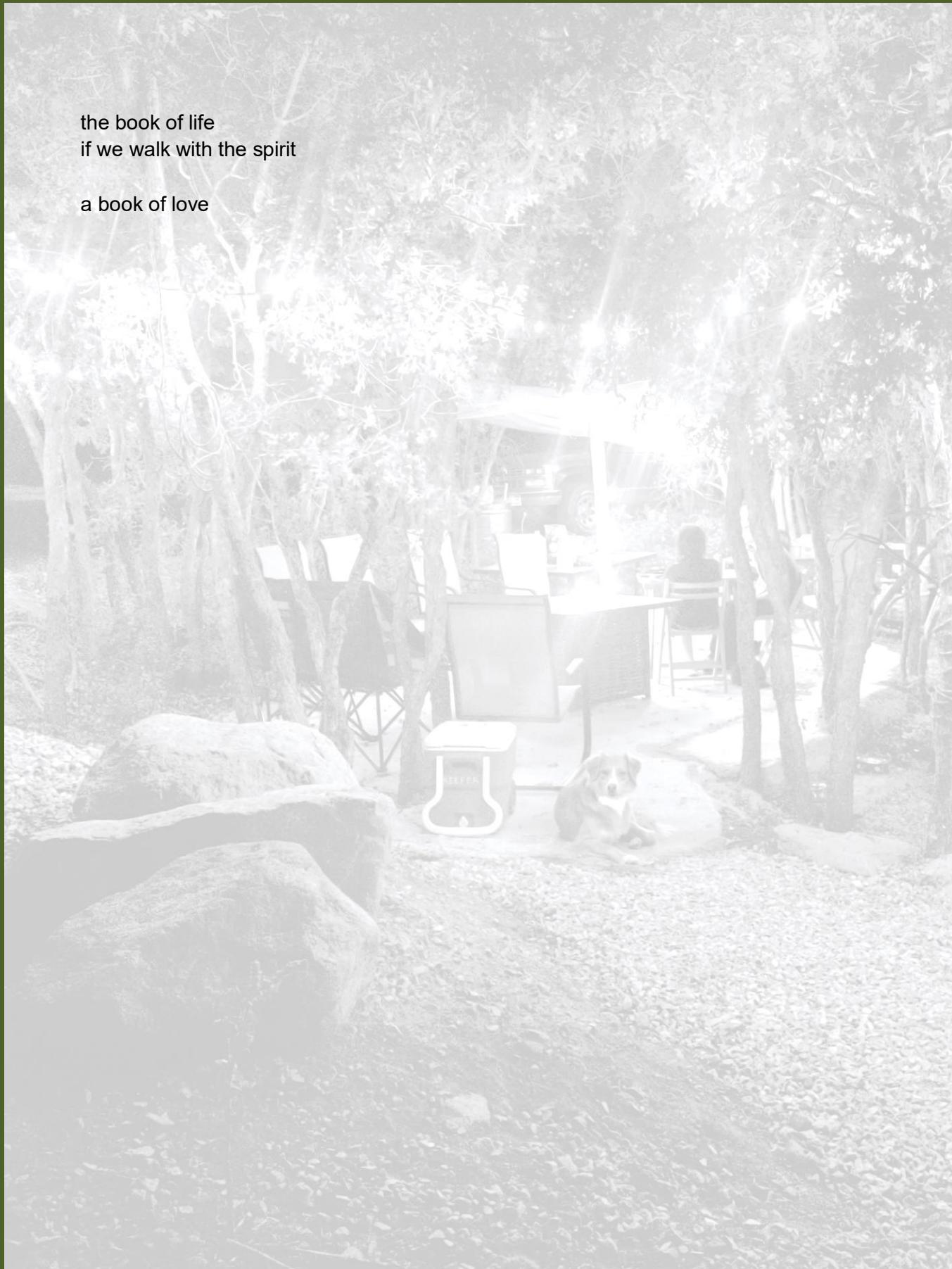
we choose our stories  
we choose how we influence  
others' stories

it is the god ability  
to create  
a beautiful story  
or a story of destruction

all we do  
is stories in a book  
in our personal book

the book of life  
if we walk with the spirit

a book of love



20251101.1

maybe today is the day

the day to start over

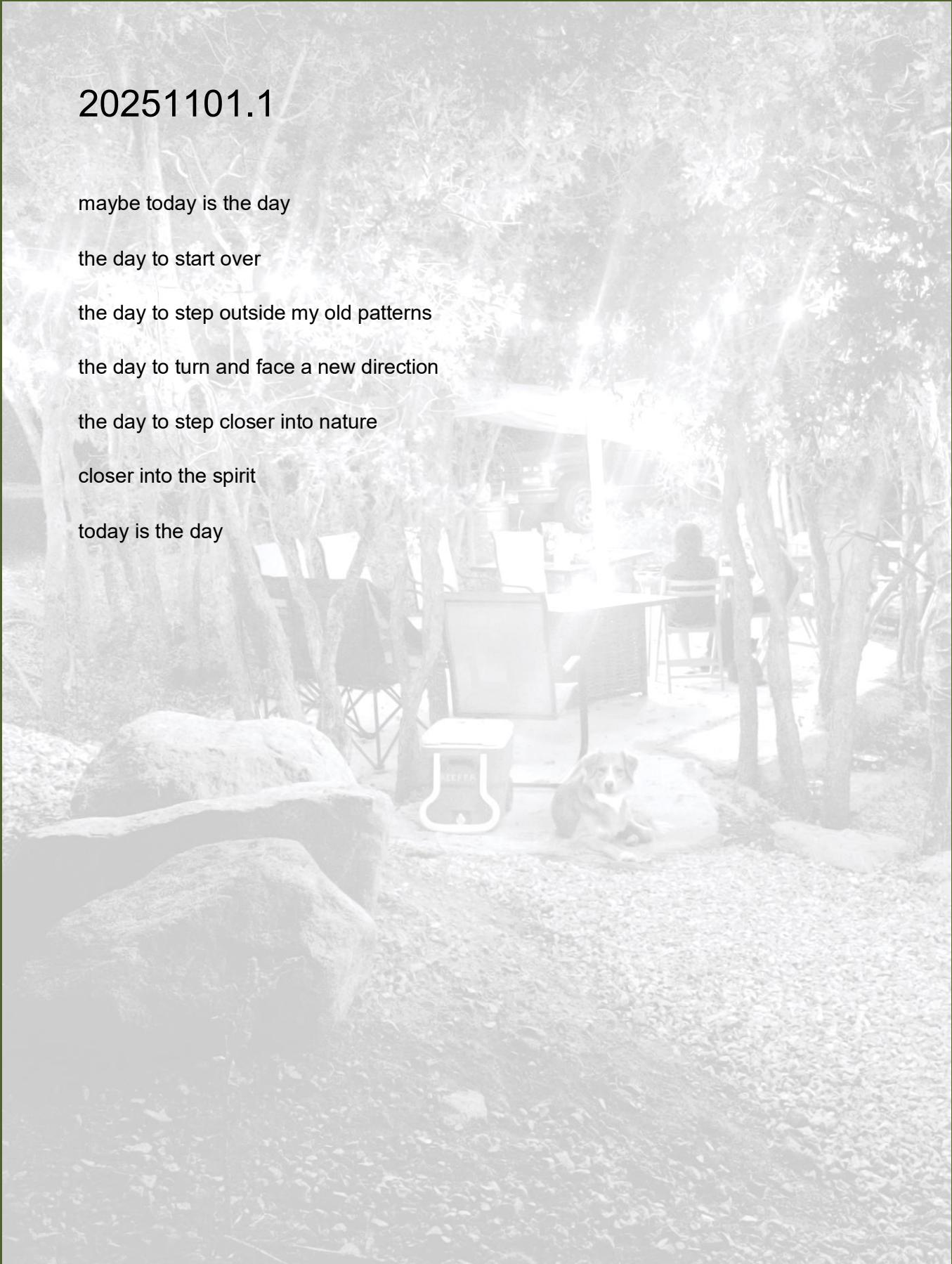
the day to step outside my old patterns

the day to turn and face a new direction

the day to step closer into nature

closer into the spirit

today is the day



end

# A Human Life

a book of poems

by  
pc keefer

book three  
end

