

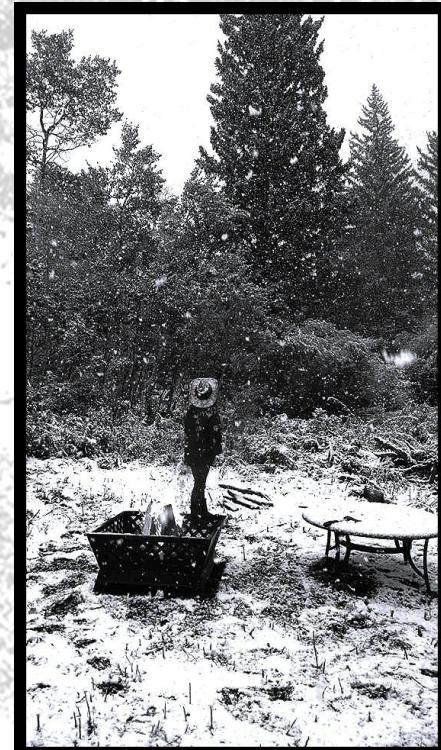
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[PCK@PoetryOnClydeLake.com](mailto:PCK@PoetryOnClydeLake.com)

# A Human Life

a book of poems

by  
pc keefer

book one



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## 20170825.1 | fear

i held fear in my heart  
most my life

i sweep it out  
but it settles again  
like dust on the sill

eating, sleeping, washing  
are not free

loving, growing, holding  
can always flee

it is the slipping  
that worries me

keeps me awake  
fires the imagination

what if we give it all away  
time gone  
possessions gone  
love gone

if we gave it all away  
would we be empty

or would we find ourselves  
full

i think we are  
by the heavens

empty

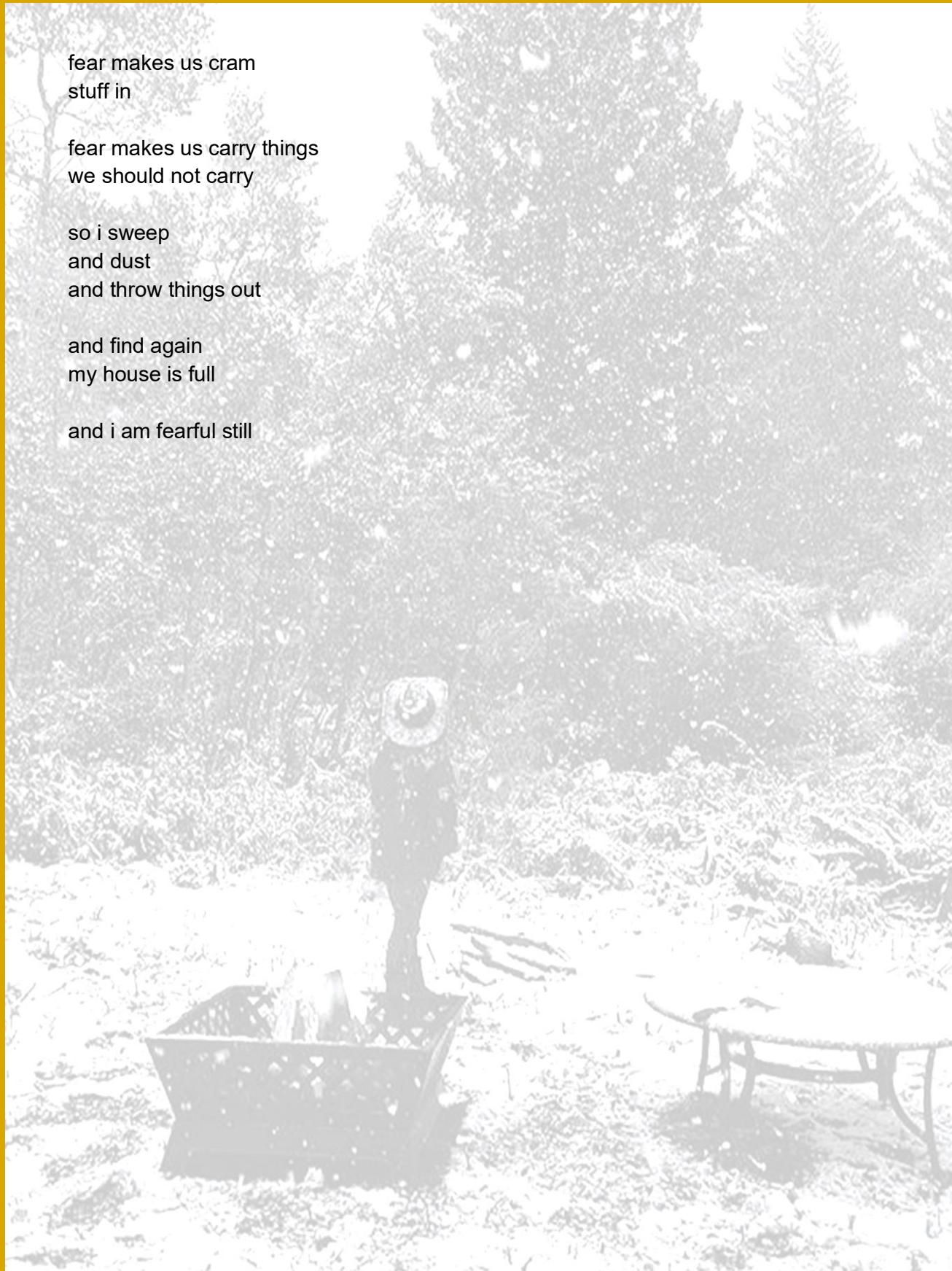
fear makes us cram  
stuff in

fear makes us carry things  
we should not carry

so i sweep  
and dust  
and throw things out

and find again  
my house is full

and i am fearful still



## 20171107.1 | necrosis

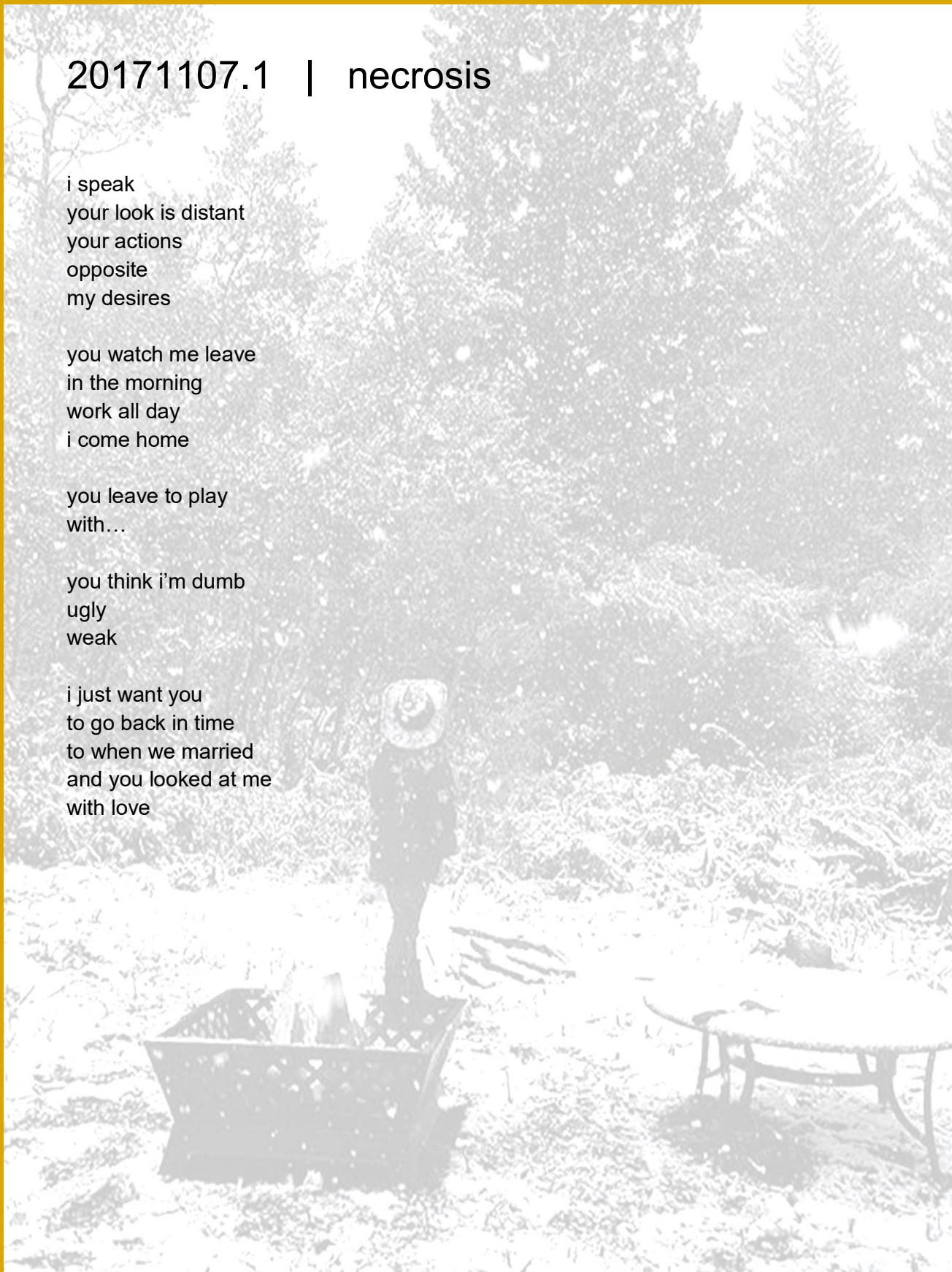
i speak  
your look is distant  
your actions  
opposite  
my desires

you watch me leave  
in the morning  
work all day  
i come home

you leave to play  
with...

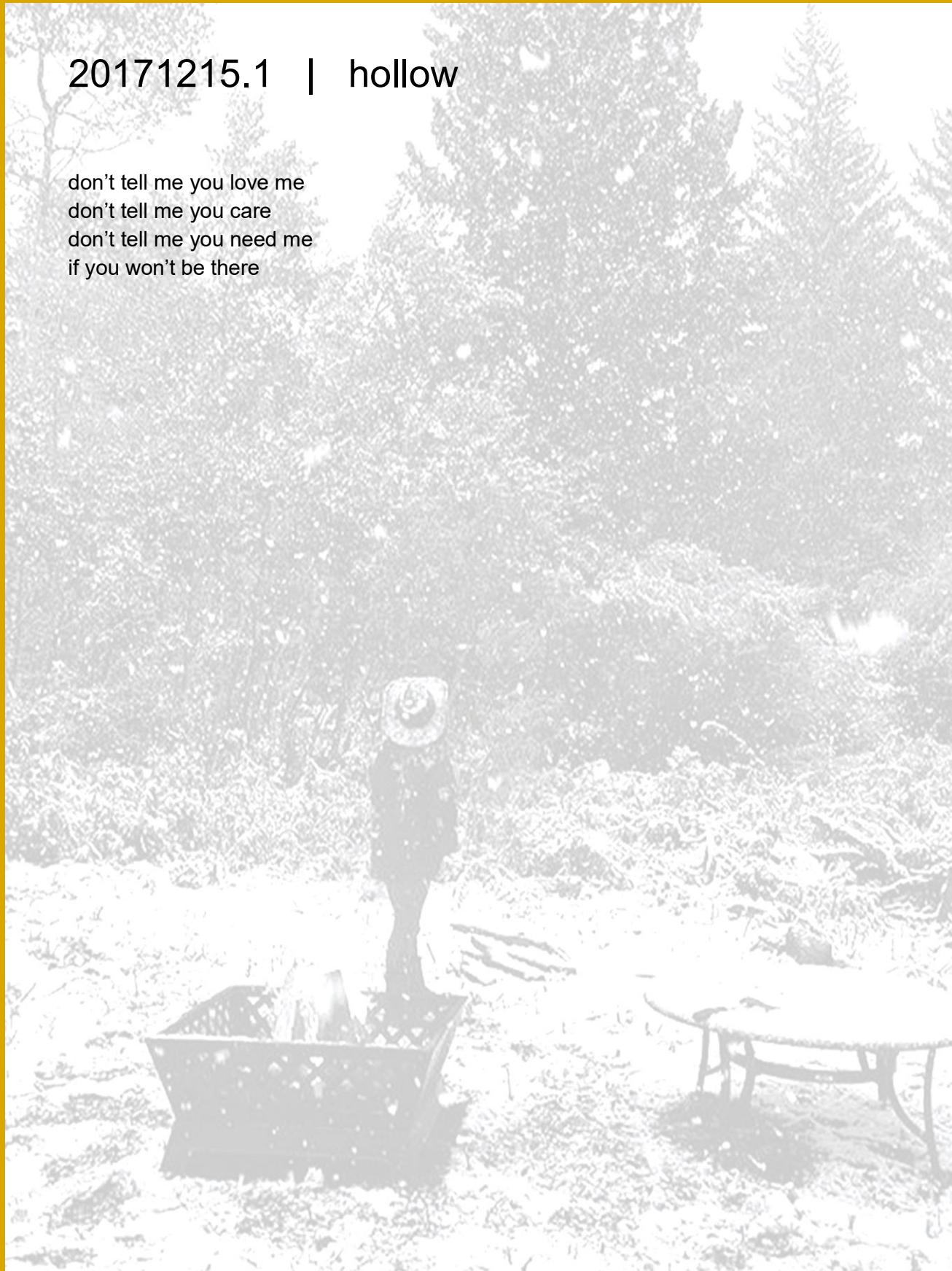
you think i'm dumb  
ugly  
weak

i just want you  
to go back in time  
to when we married  
and you looked at me  
with love



20171215.1 | hollow

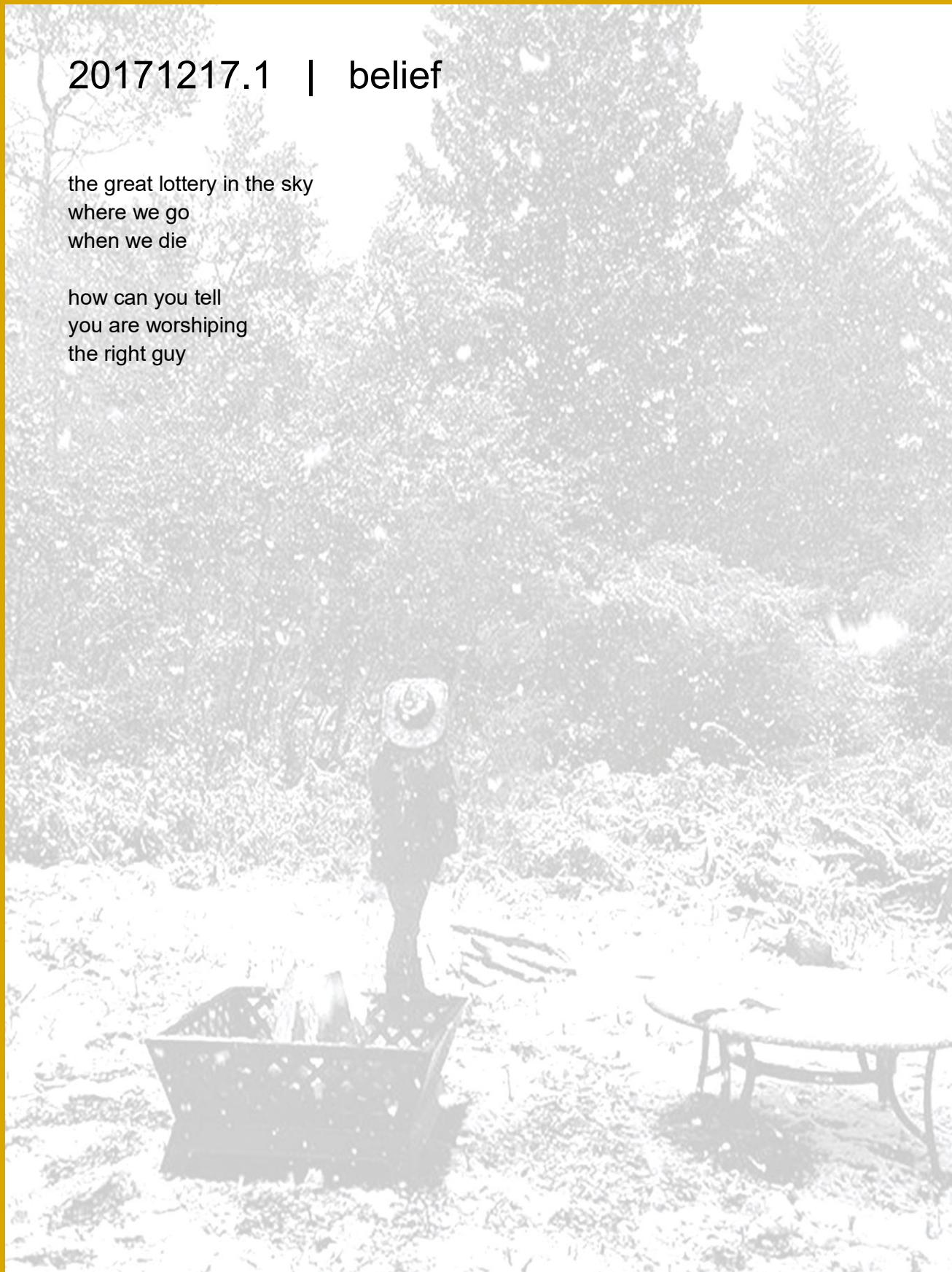
don't tell me you love me  
don't tell me you care  
don't tell me you need me  
if you won't be there



## 20171217.1 | belief

the great lottery in the sky  
where we go  
when we die

how can you tell  
you are worshiping  
the right guy



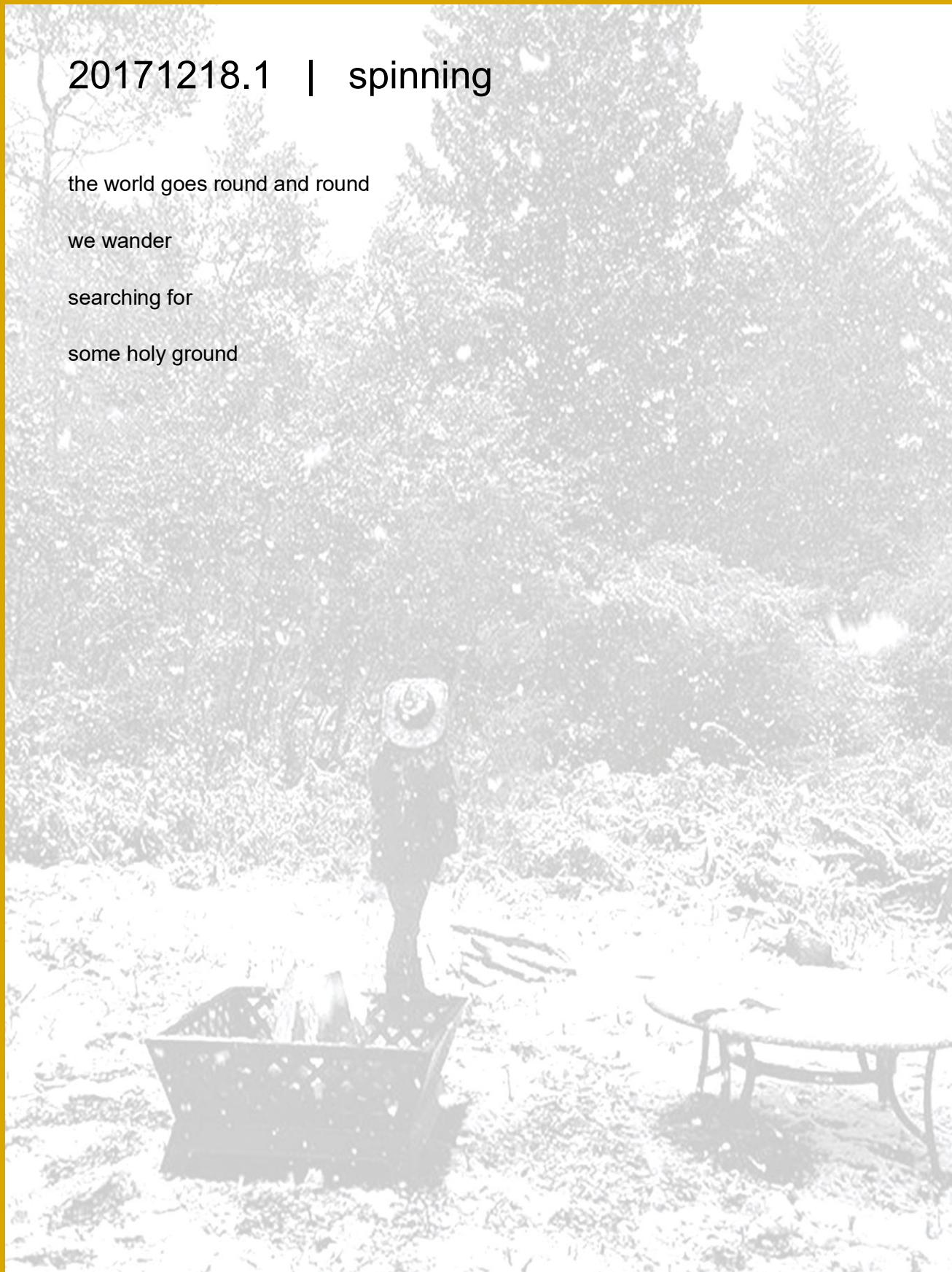
## 20171218.1 | spinning

the world goes round and round

we wander

searching for

some holy ground

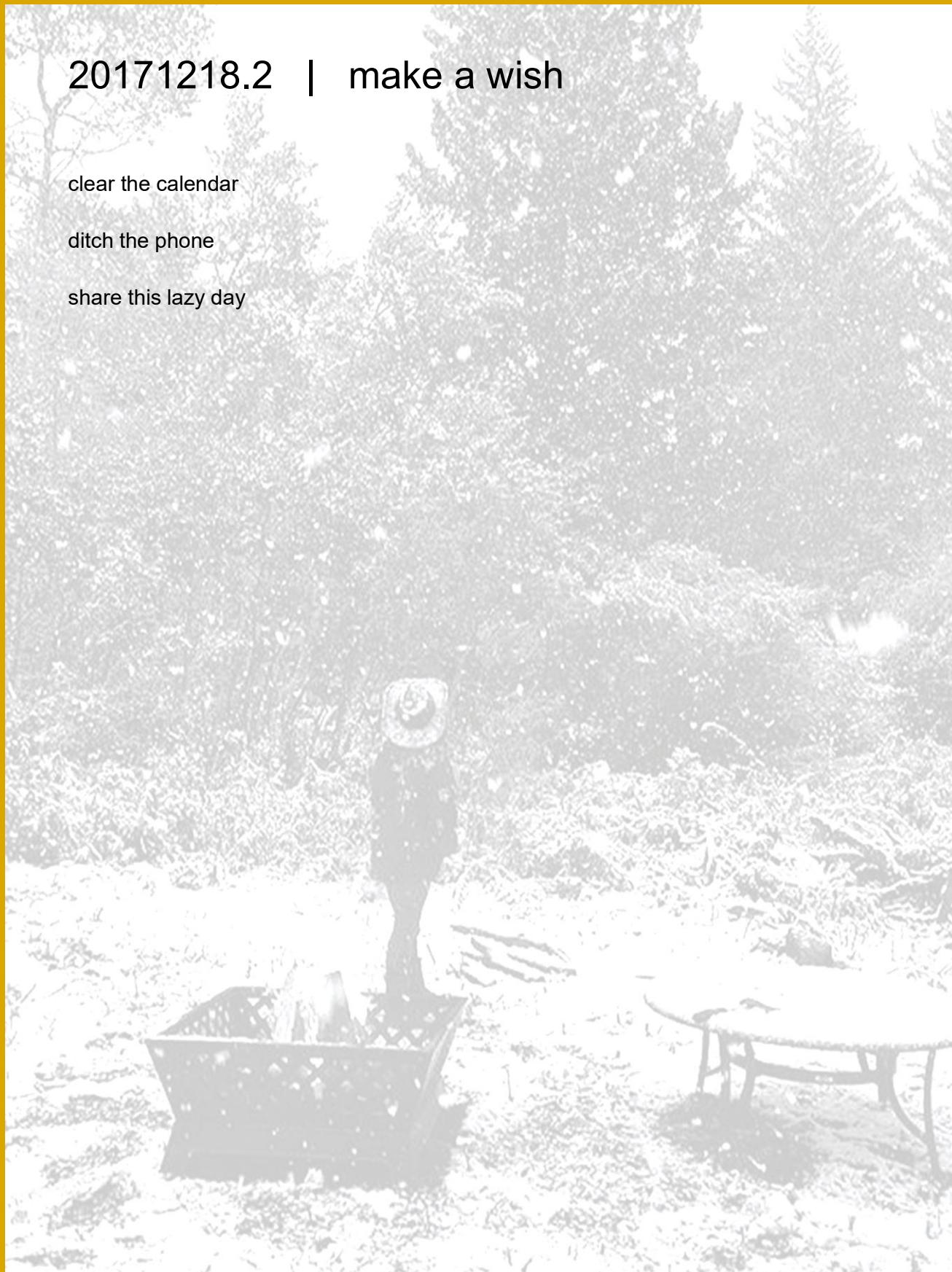


20171218.2 | make a wish

clear the calendar

ditch the phone

share this lazy day

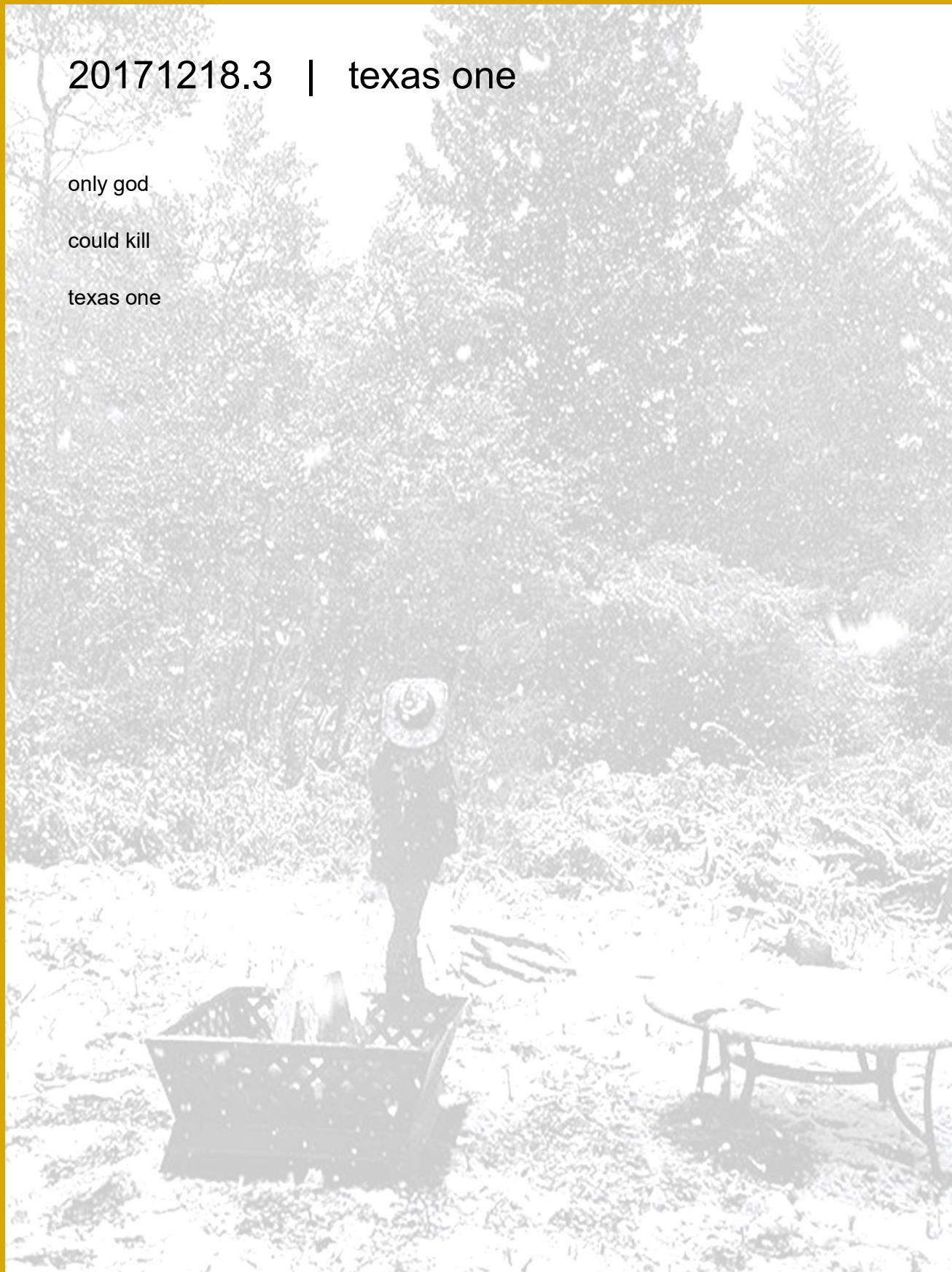


20171218.3 | texas one

only god

could kill

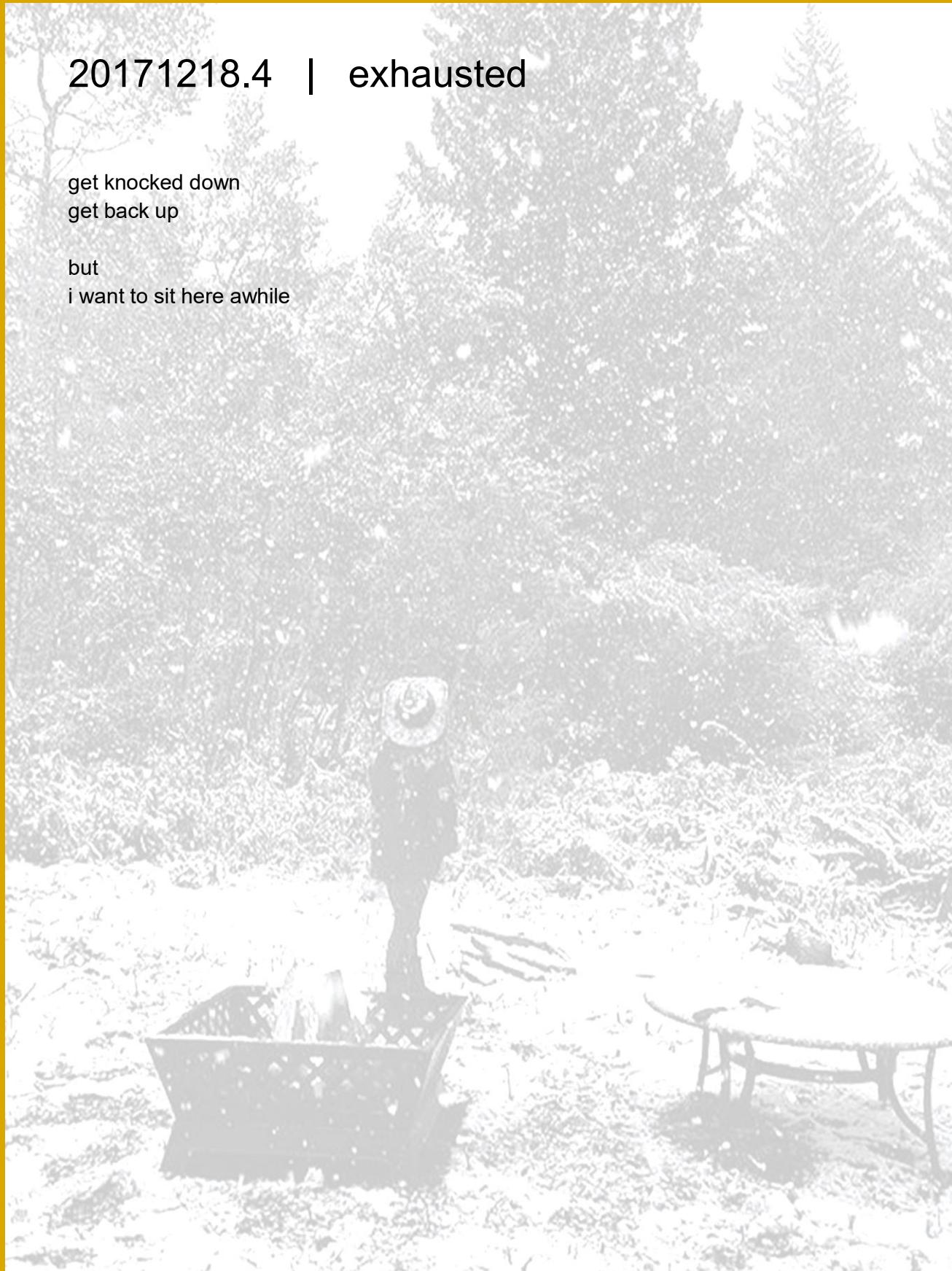
texas one



## 20171218.4 | exhausted

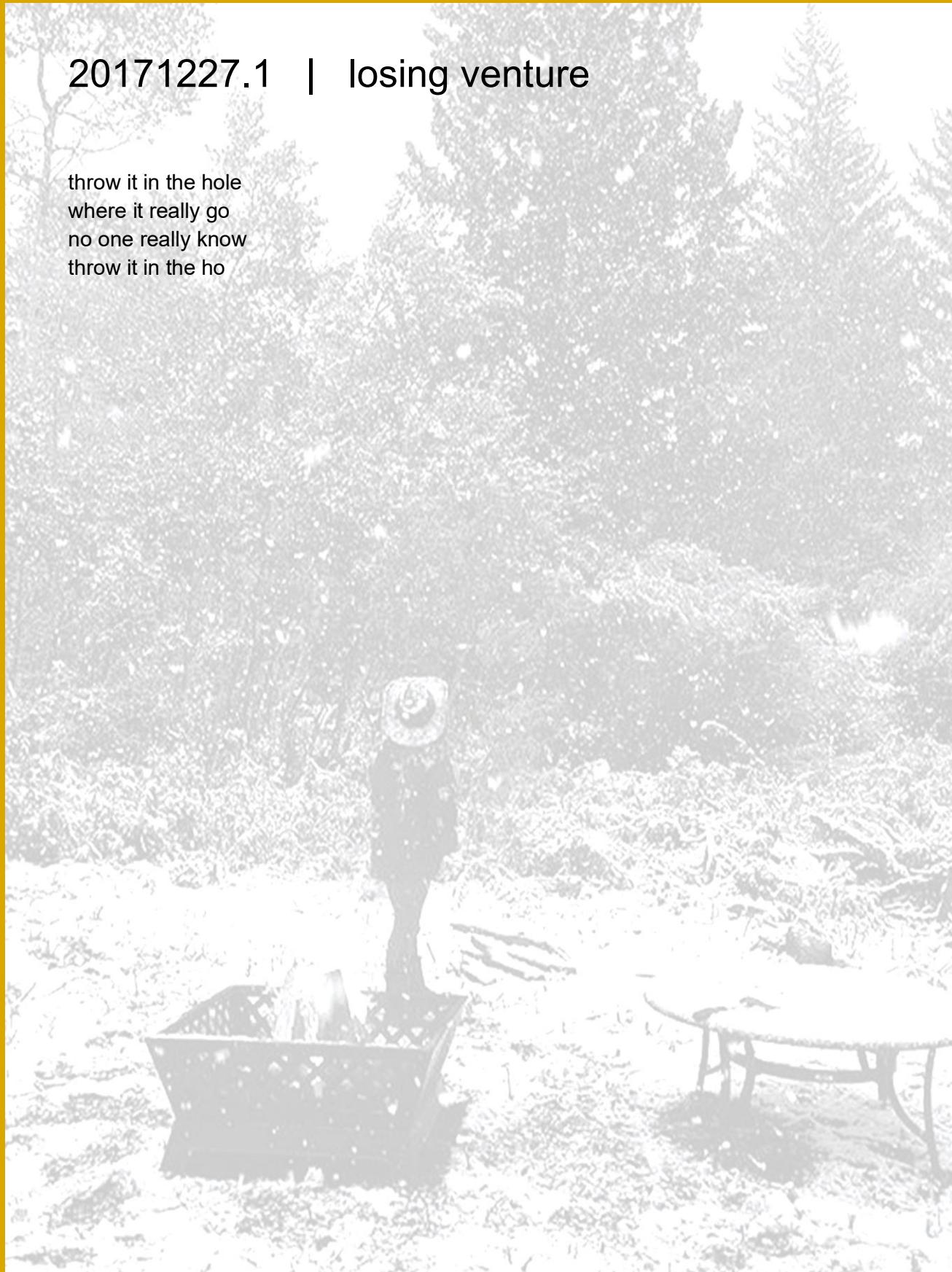
get knocked down  
get back up

but  
i want to sit here awhile



## 20171227.1 | losing venture

throw it in the hole  
where it really go  
no one really know  
throw it in the ho



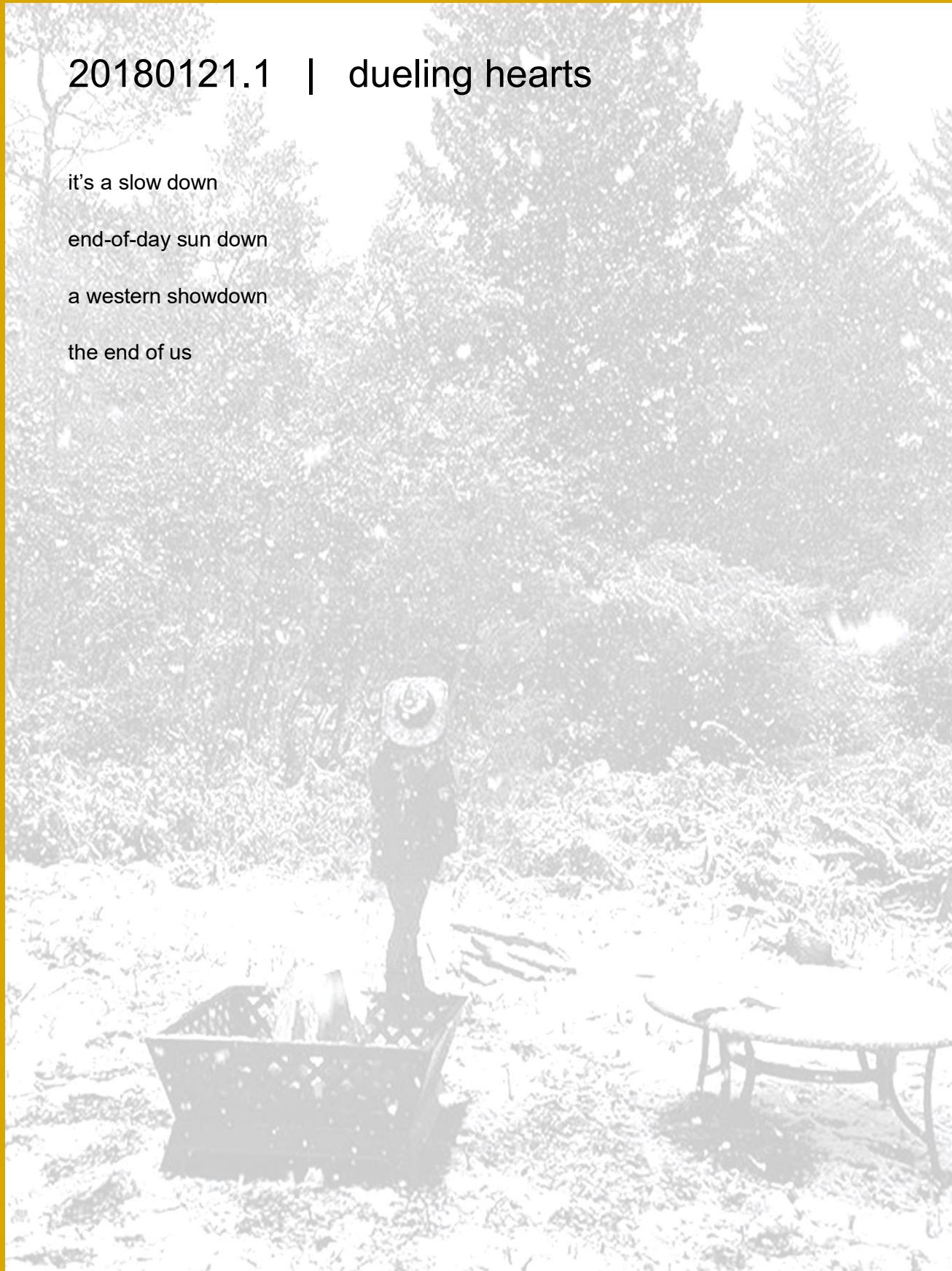
## 20180121.1 | dueling hearts

it's a slow down

end-of-day sun down

a western showdown

the end of us

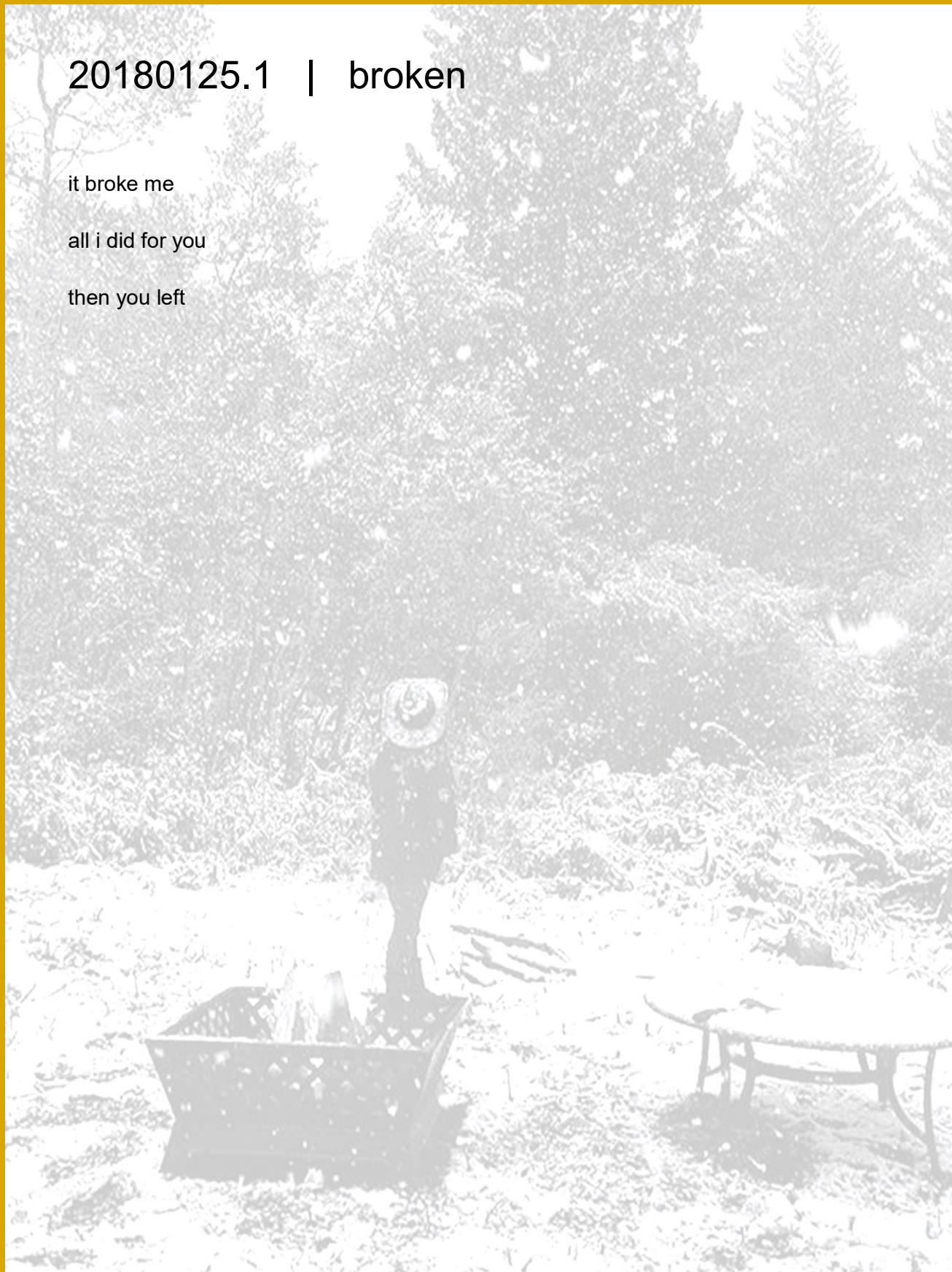


20180125.1 | broken

it broke me

all i did for you

then you left



## 20180224.1 | this is love

i want to gather every good gift  
and lay it at your feet

all who were important  
have taken a backseat

this is love  
not tidy or neat

a frenzied race  
to claim your seat  
to hold your hand  
to hold your eyes  
to whisper sweet  
to grip you tight  
in the passion of night

this is love  
not tidy or neat

center shifted  
life off balance  
thoughts pulling  
into the deep  
trouble sleeping  
trouble keeping  
my thoughts  
on anything  
but you

are you in  
are you out  
wrestling with  
the powers of doubt  
love me  
love me not

if you leave  
what have i got

memories

a painful rift  
the cavern made  
by loves retreat

do i believe  
this love will keep  
not cast me to the street  
do you believe  
this love will keep  
do you believe

this is love  
not tidy or neat

a mess of emotions  
all tangled and deep  
a rock in the pond  
the ripples so sweet  
our souls to capture  
and to keep

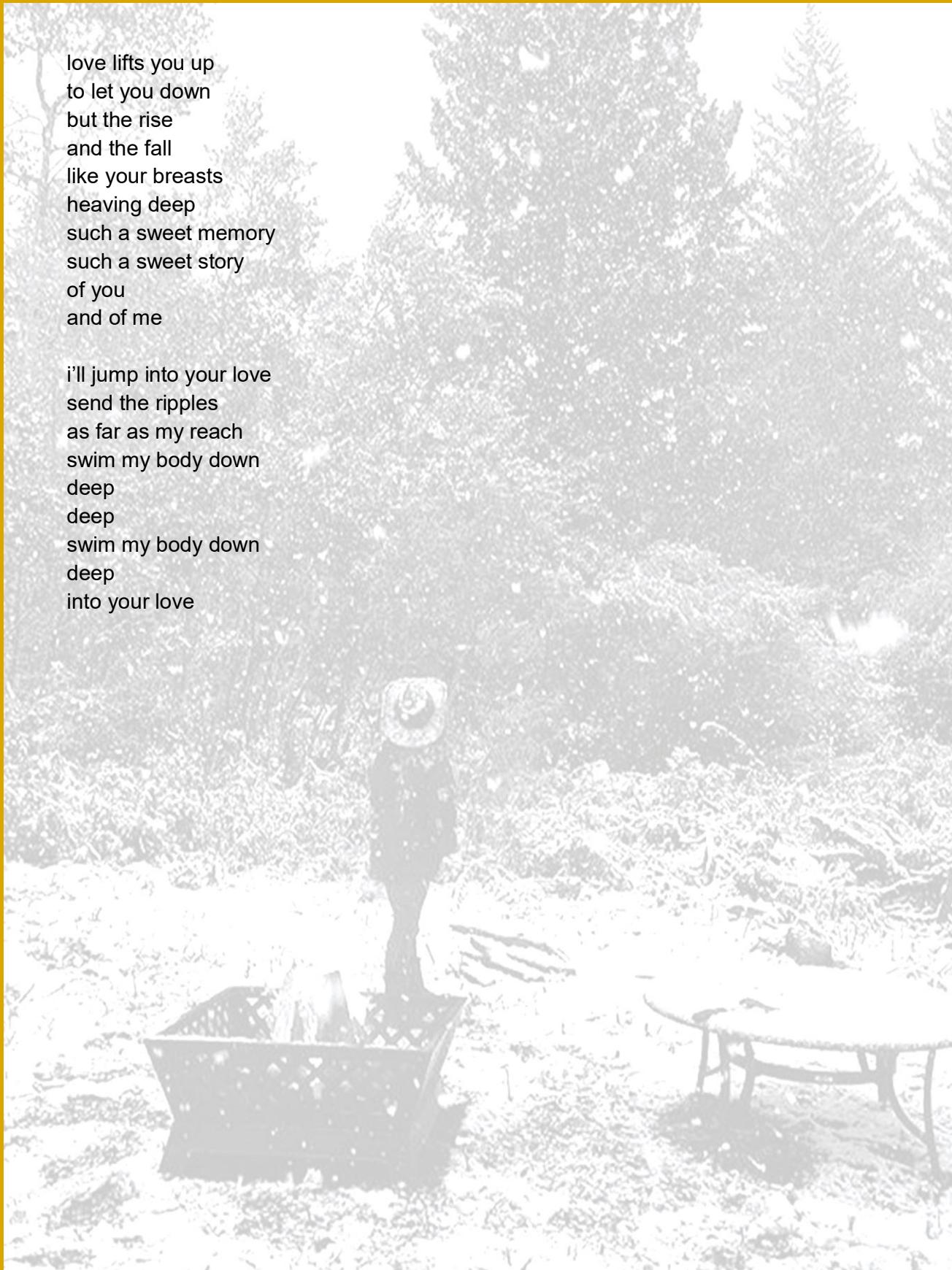
this is love  
not tidy or neat

this is your heart  
playing in the street  
love grips the chest  
takes away the breath  
a panic  
a fear  
that love  
may not stay  
love packed up  
love gone home



love lifts you up  
to let you down  
but the rise  
and the fall  
like your breasts  
heaving deep  
such a sweet memory  
such a sweet story  
of you  
and of me

i'll jump into your love  
send the ripples  
as far as my reach  
swim my body down  
deep  
deep  
swim my body down  
deep  
into your love



## 20180227.1 | lost in love

i'm doing everything wrong

falling too fast

too soon

oversharing

overholding

overdisclosing

showing weakness

insecurity

this is a mess

i am a mess

where did the

calm

strong

ass-kicking

tree-chopping

mountain-moving

me

go

## 20180227.2 | foreigner

to live

in another's

thoughts

heart

hopes

the strangest of all foreign lands

the land of love

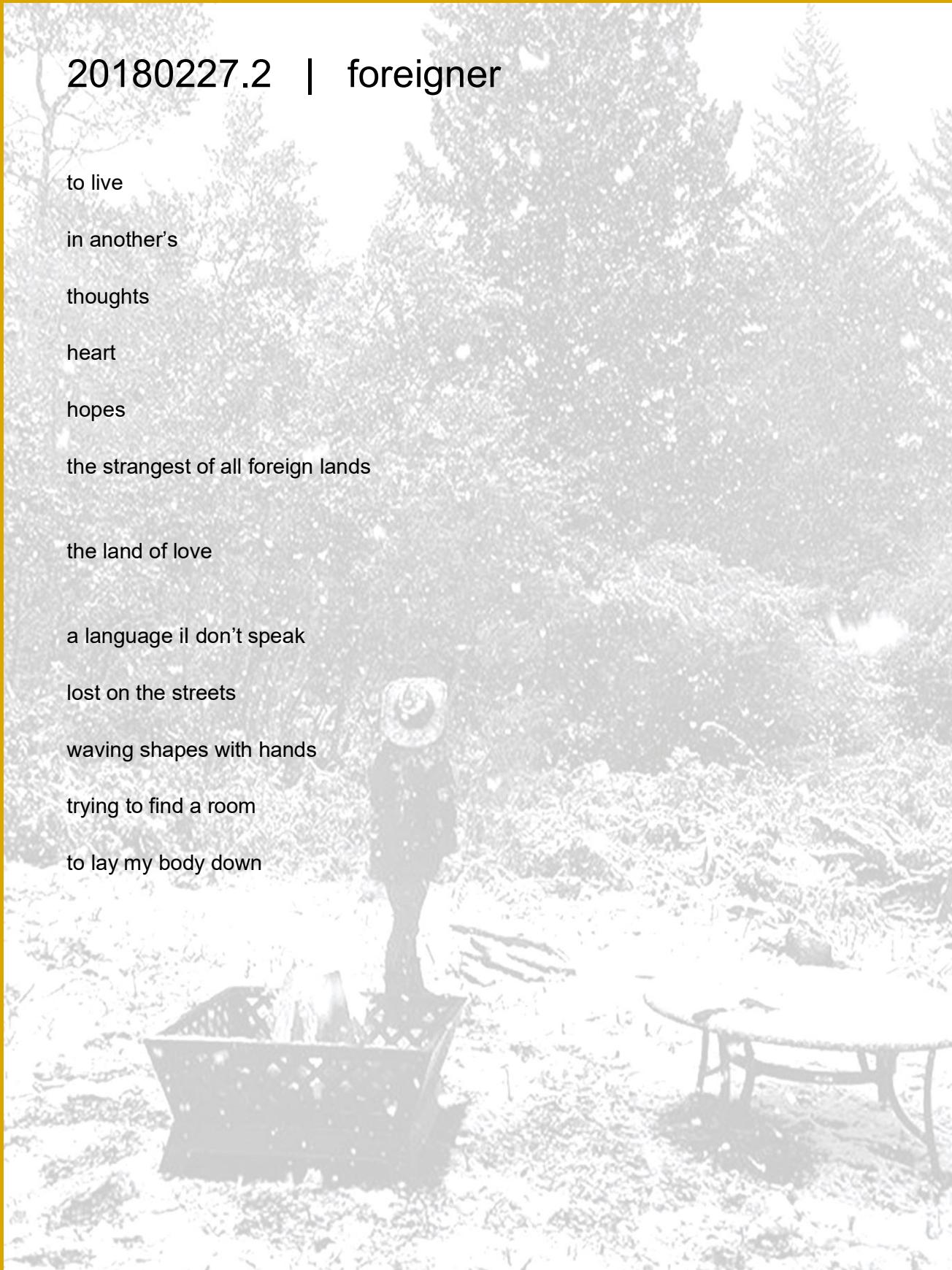
a language il don't speak

lost on the streets

waving shapes with hands

trying to find a room

to lay my body down



20180304.1 | yinyang

i can hold you  
perfectly

but share my thoughts

and i'll  
fuck it up



## 20180304.2 | rockies

there are green fields in ireland

yellow hot sands in africa

jungle waterfalls in brazil

earth-fulls of places

it's the rockies for me

canyons

rivers

cliffs

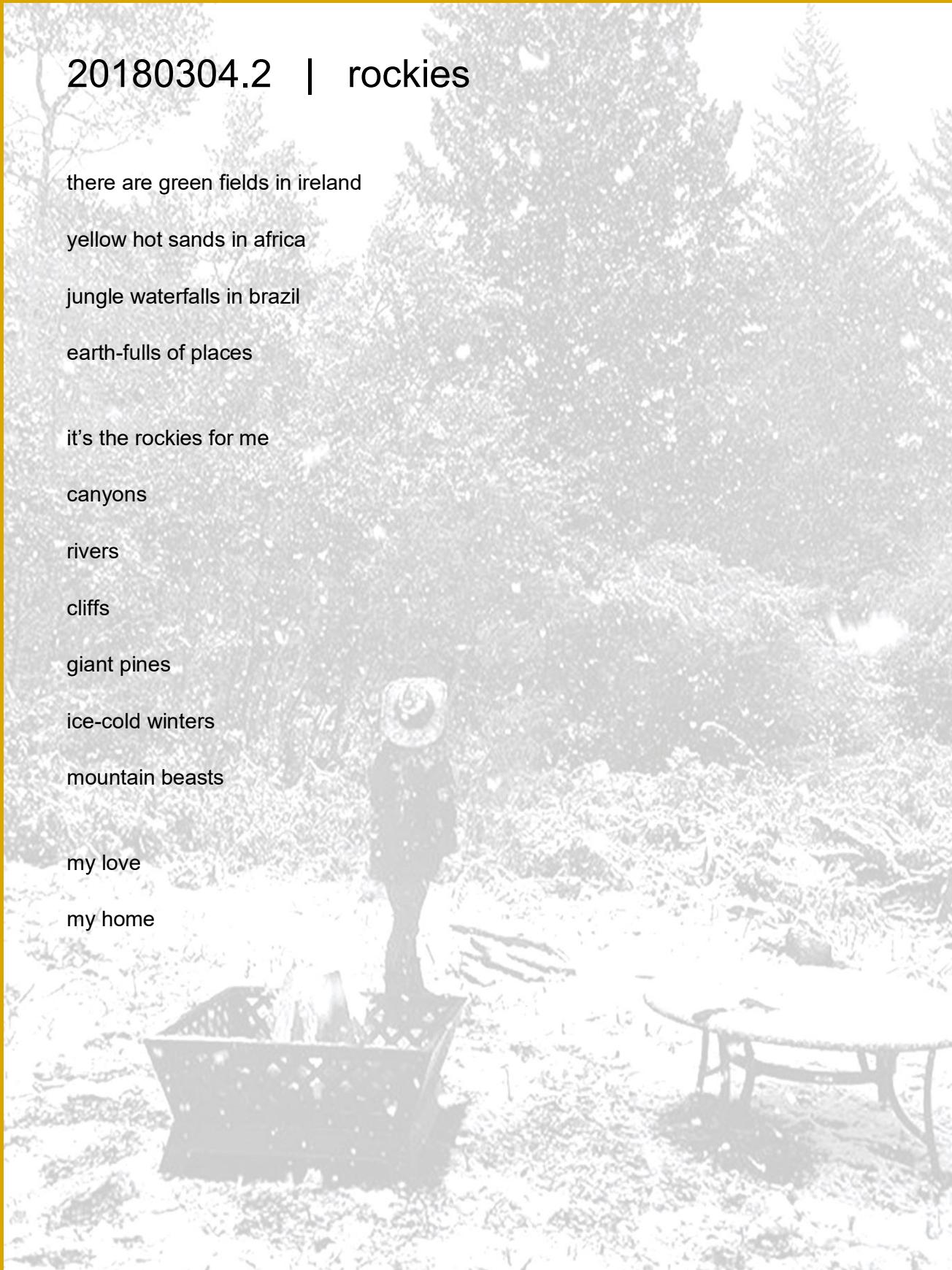
giant pines

ice-cold winters

mountain beasts

my love

my home



## 20180308.1 | misaligned

today i spend working

like yesterday

and tomorrow

i did not hold my love

did not hold my child

did not hold my parents

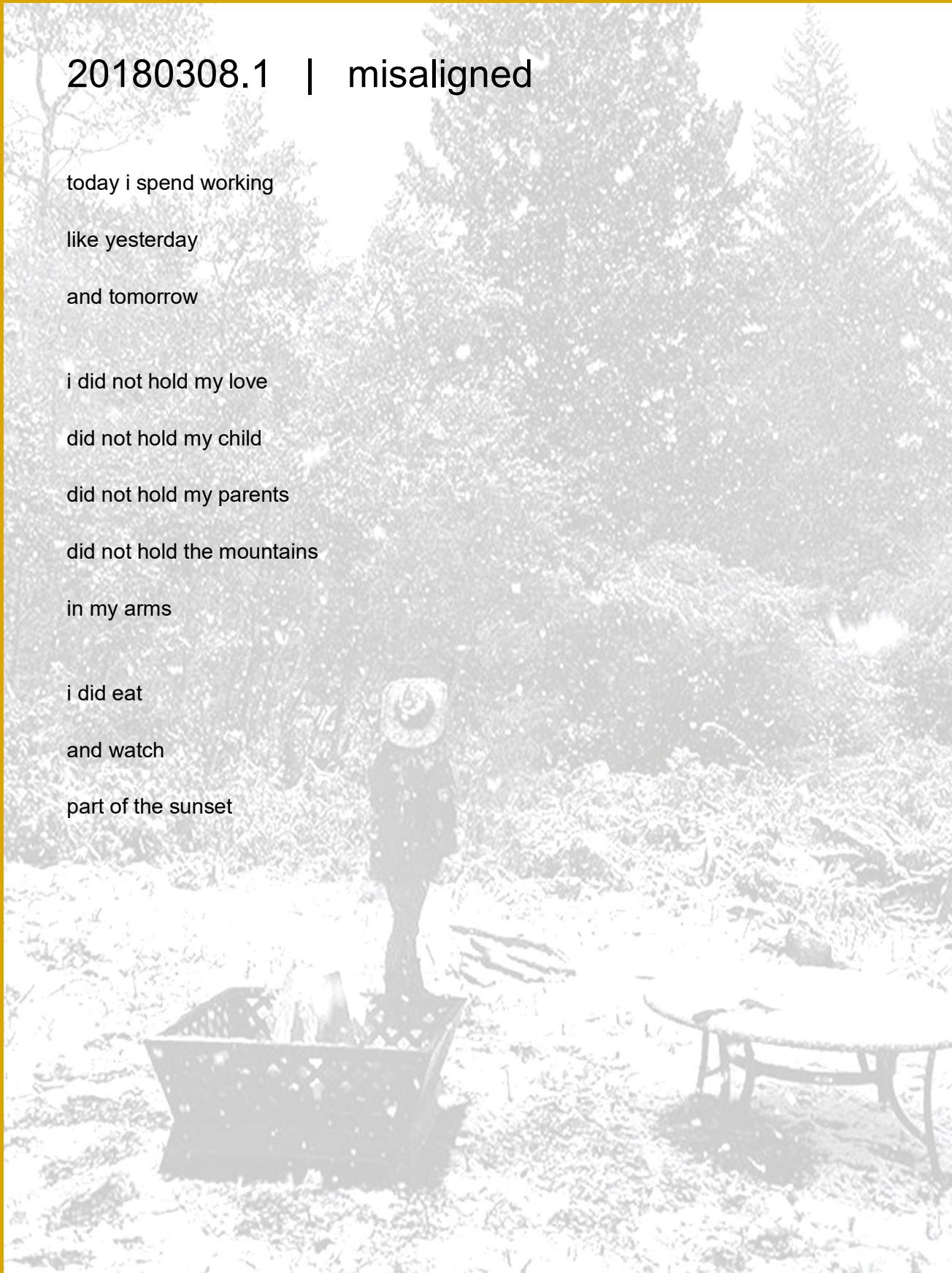
did not hold the mountains

in my arms

i did eat

and watch

part of the sunset



20180317.1 | corner

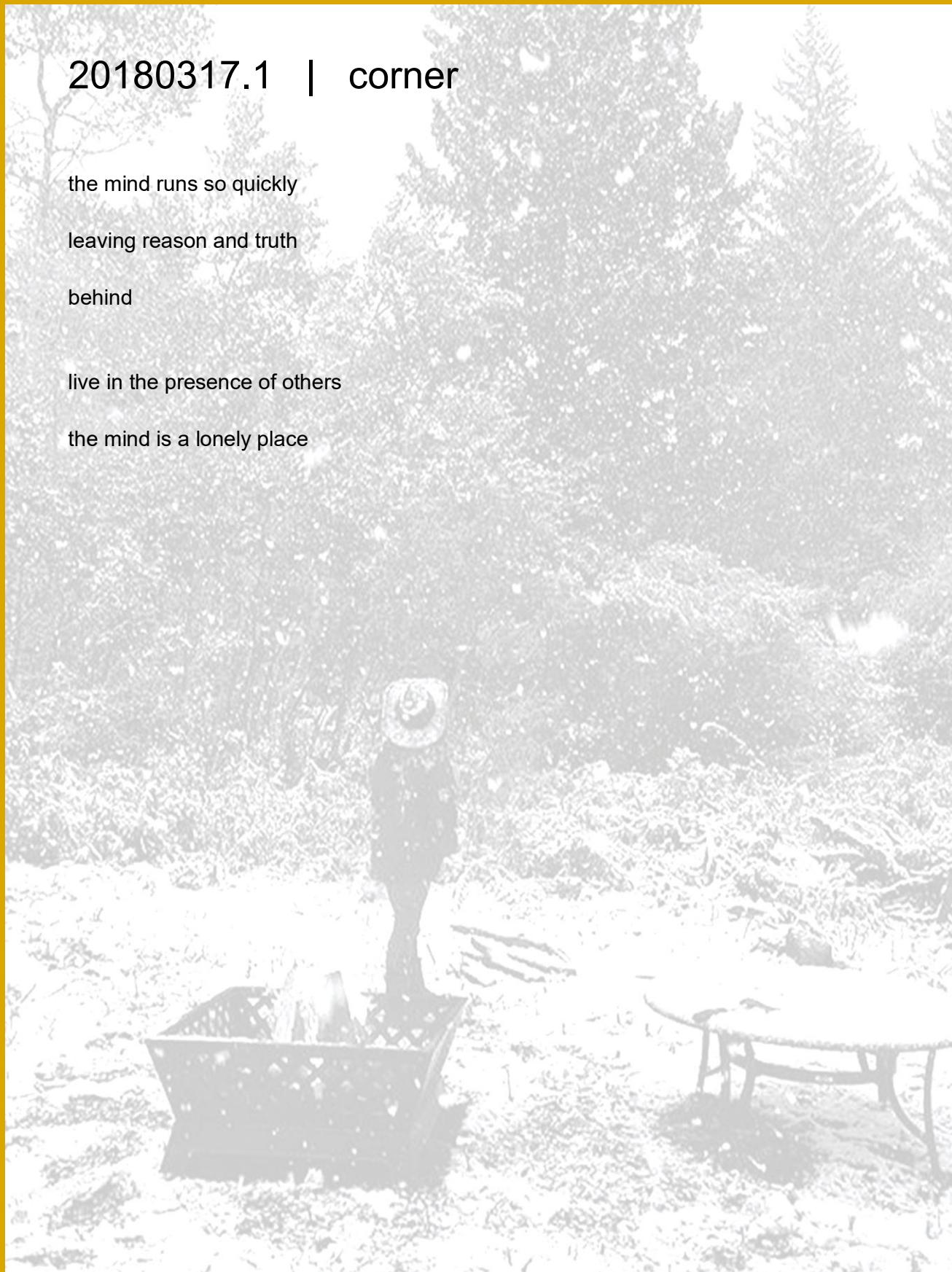
the mind runs so quickly

leaving reason and truth

behind

live in the presence of others

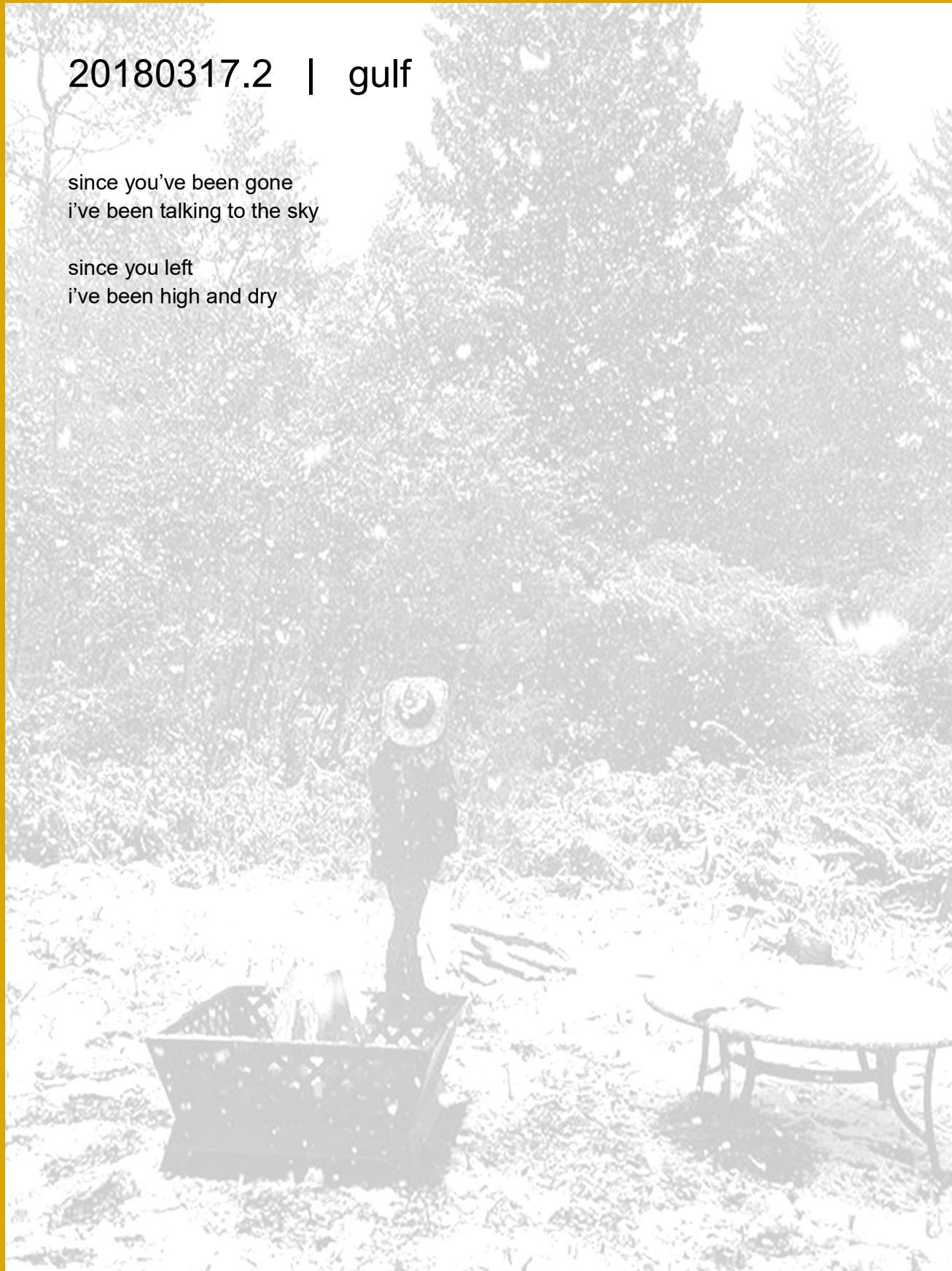
the mind is a lonely place



20180317.2 | gulf

since you've been gone  
i've been talking to the sky

since you left  
i've been high and dry



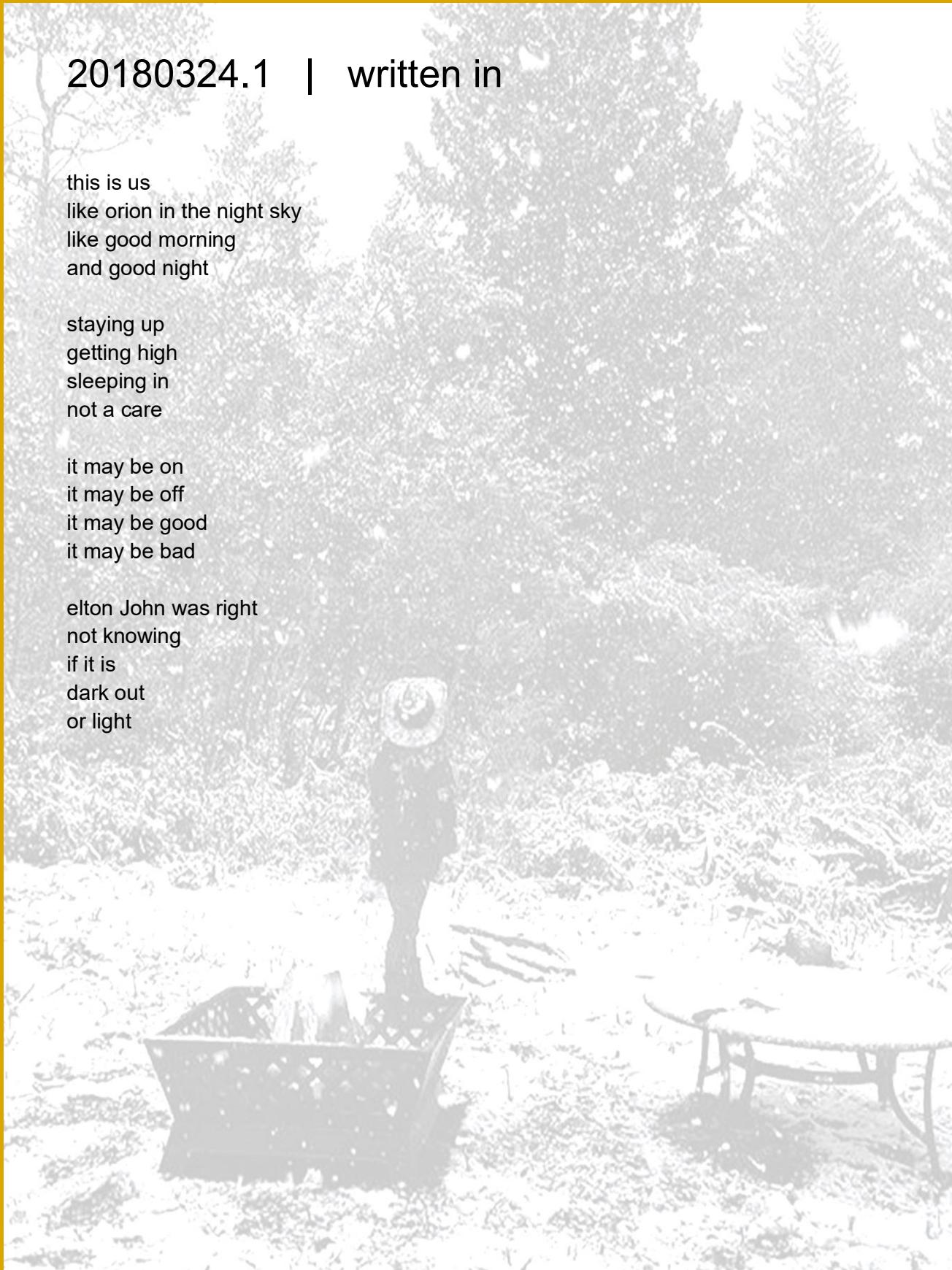
## 20180324.1 | written in

this is us  
like orion in the night sky  
like good morning  
and good night

staying up  
getting high  
sleeping in  
not a care

it may be on  
it may be off  
it may be good  
it may be bad

elton John was right  
not knowing  
if it is  
dark out  
or light



## 20180328.1 | numerolo-she

your nose twitches  
and that  
if fucking adorable

your face is symmetrical  
with almond eyes  
blue and dancing

your frame is petite  
every man's dream

you told me you cried  
one night recently  
i asked why  
but i didn't fully comprehend

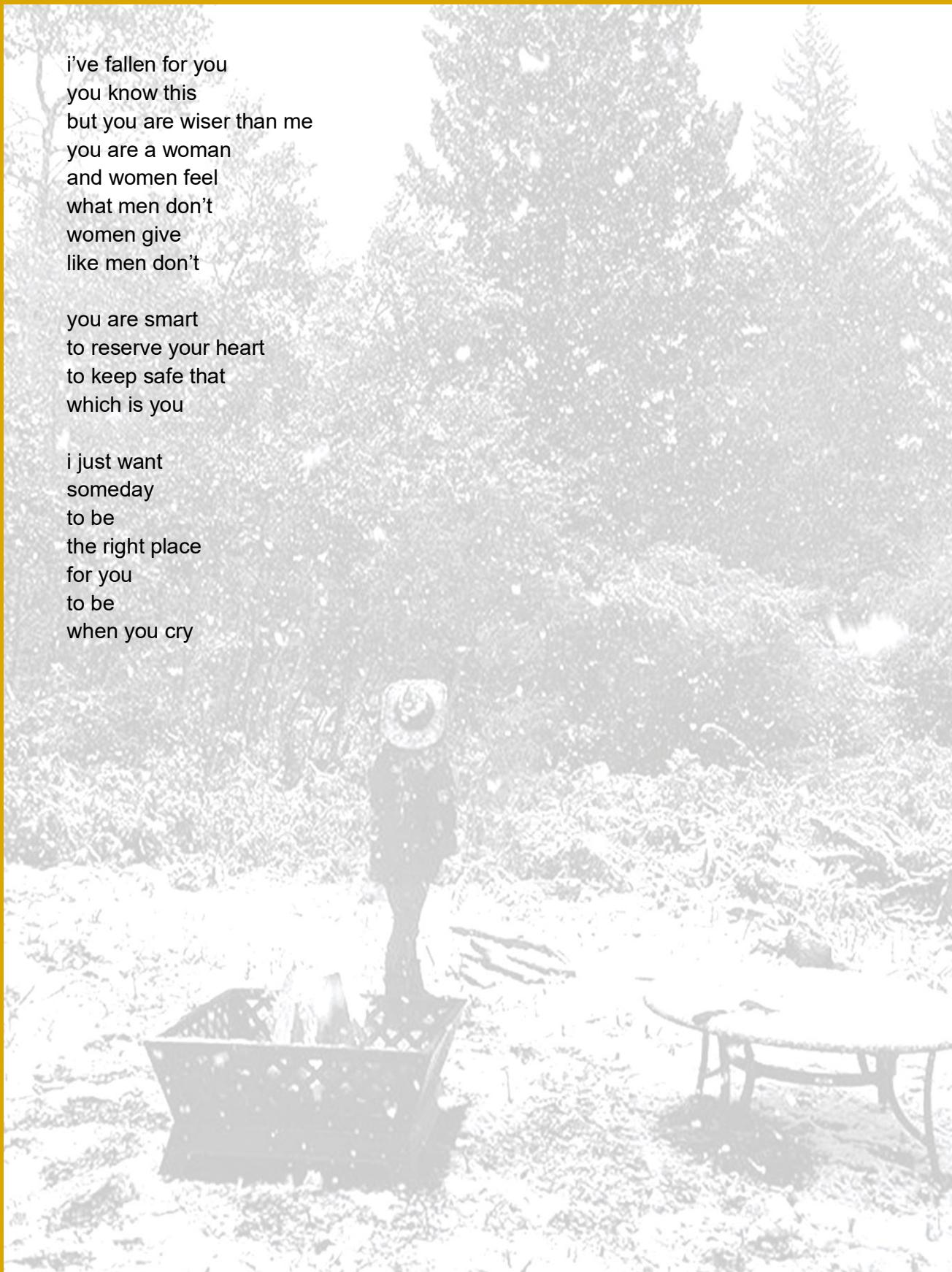
if i was there  
at that time  
your time of sorrow  
would i be good for you

would i say the right words  
to comfort you  
would i sit quietly and read  
to myself  
my presence alone  
the comfort you need  
would i take you in my arms  
and there would you find  
your safe place  
your comfort  
your peace

i've fallen for you  
you know this  
but you are wiser than me  
you are a woman  
and women feel  
what men don't  
women give  
like men don't

you are smart  
to reserve your heart  
to keep safe that  
which is you

i just want  
someday  
to be  
the right place  
for you  
to be  
when you cry

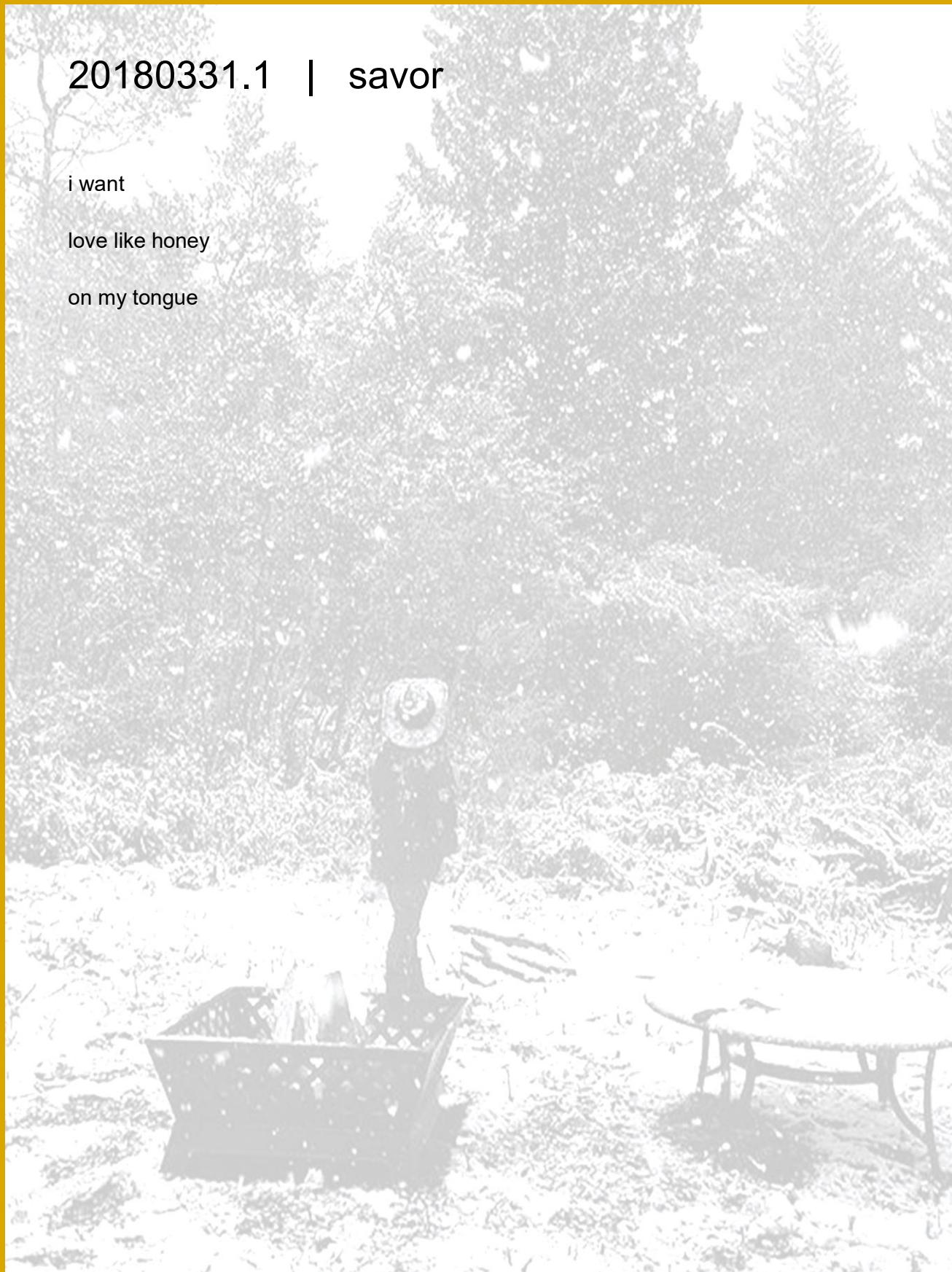


20180331.1 | savor

i want

love like honey

on my tongue



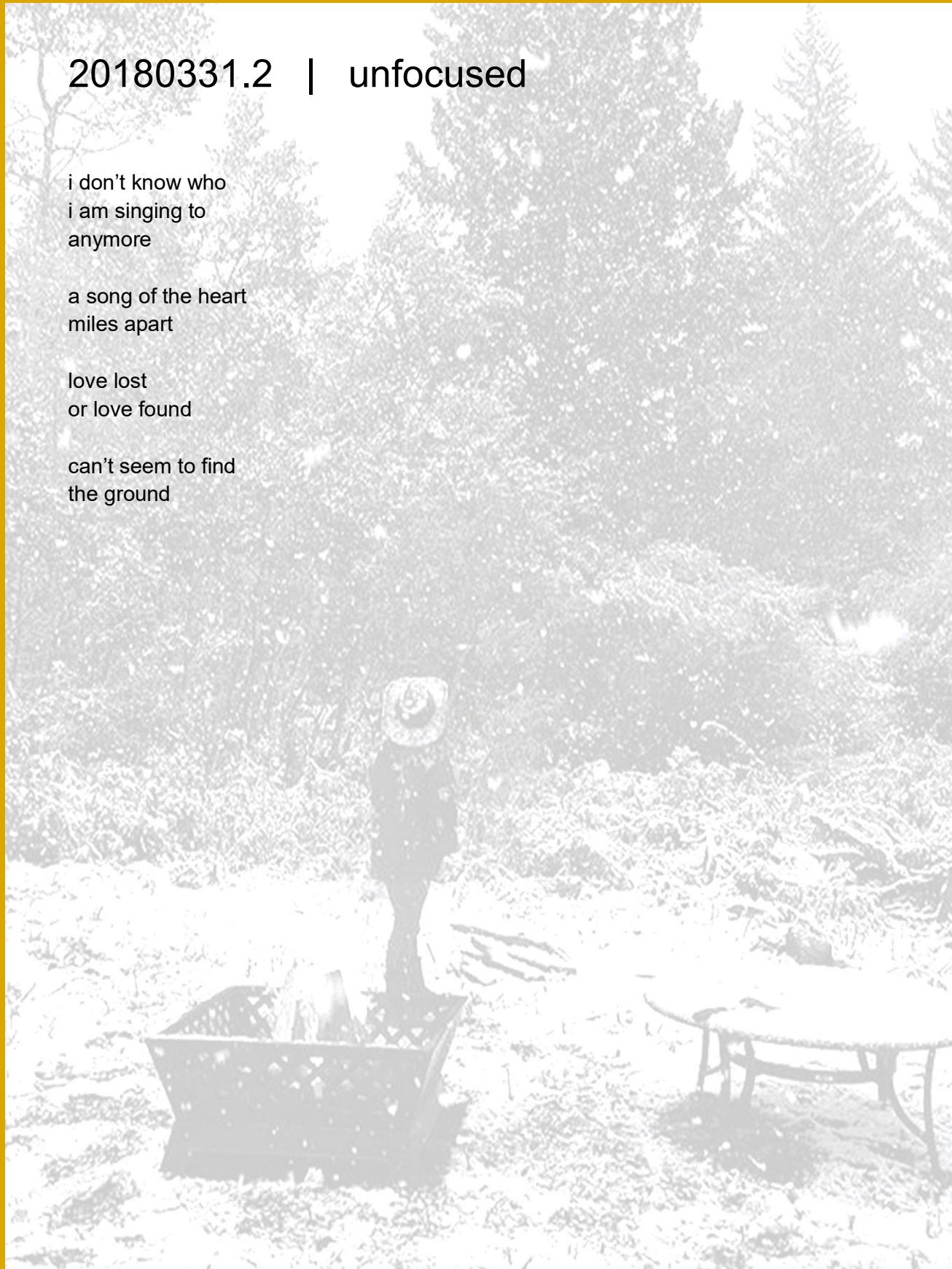
## 20180331.2 | unfocused

i don't know who  
i am singing to  
anymore

a song of the heart  
miles apart

love lost  
or love found

can't seem to find  
the ground



## 20180331.3 | long distance love

i'm with you  
but I feel alone

time apart  
miles away

how goddamn long  
is this day

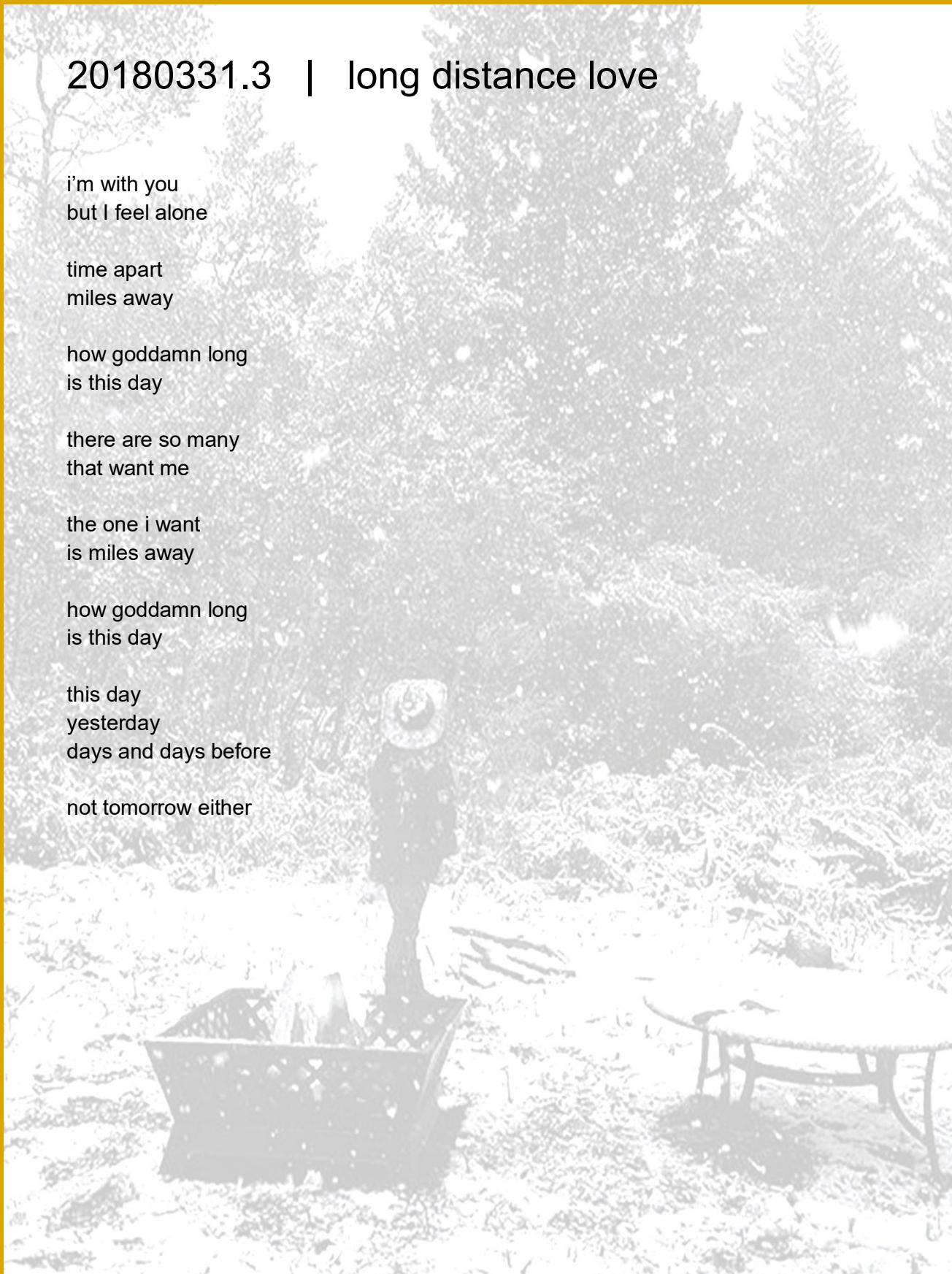
there are so many  
that want me

the one i want  
is miles away

how goddamn long  
is this day

this day  
yesterday  
days and days before

not tomorrow either



## 20180331.4 | simple man

you want magic

but i'm just a train conductor

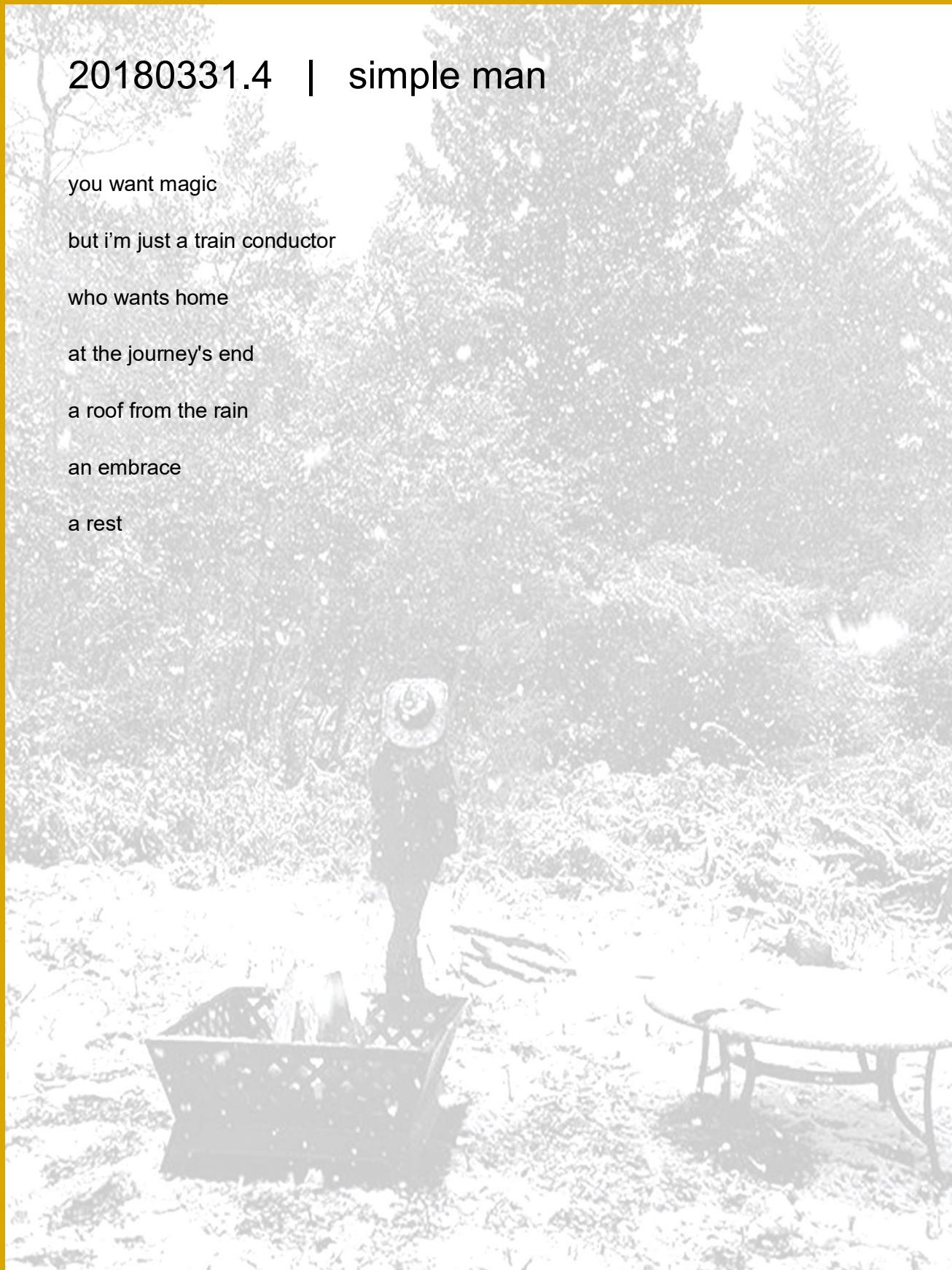
who wants home

at the journey's end

a roof from the rain

an embrace

a rest



## 20180401.1 | mosaic

you broke me into pieces  
before you walked out the door

you took the best, most valuable, shiniest pieces  
put them in your pocket  
took them away

now i'm here, sad, alone  
looking at the unwanted  
pieces of me

i'll take the pieces i have  
and play them  
like a chess champion  
moving my pieces  
with master strategy

my favorite artist  
painted thirty works  
using dorian gray, white, and black  
beautiful  
powerful  
portraits using three  
colorless pieces

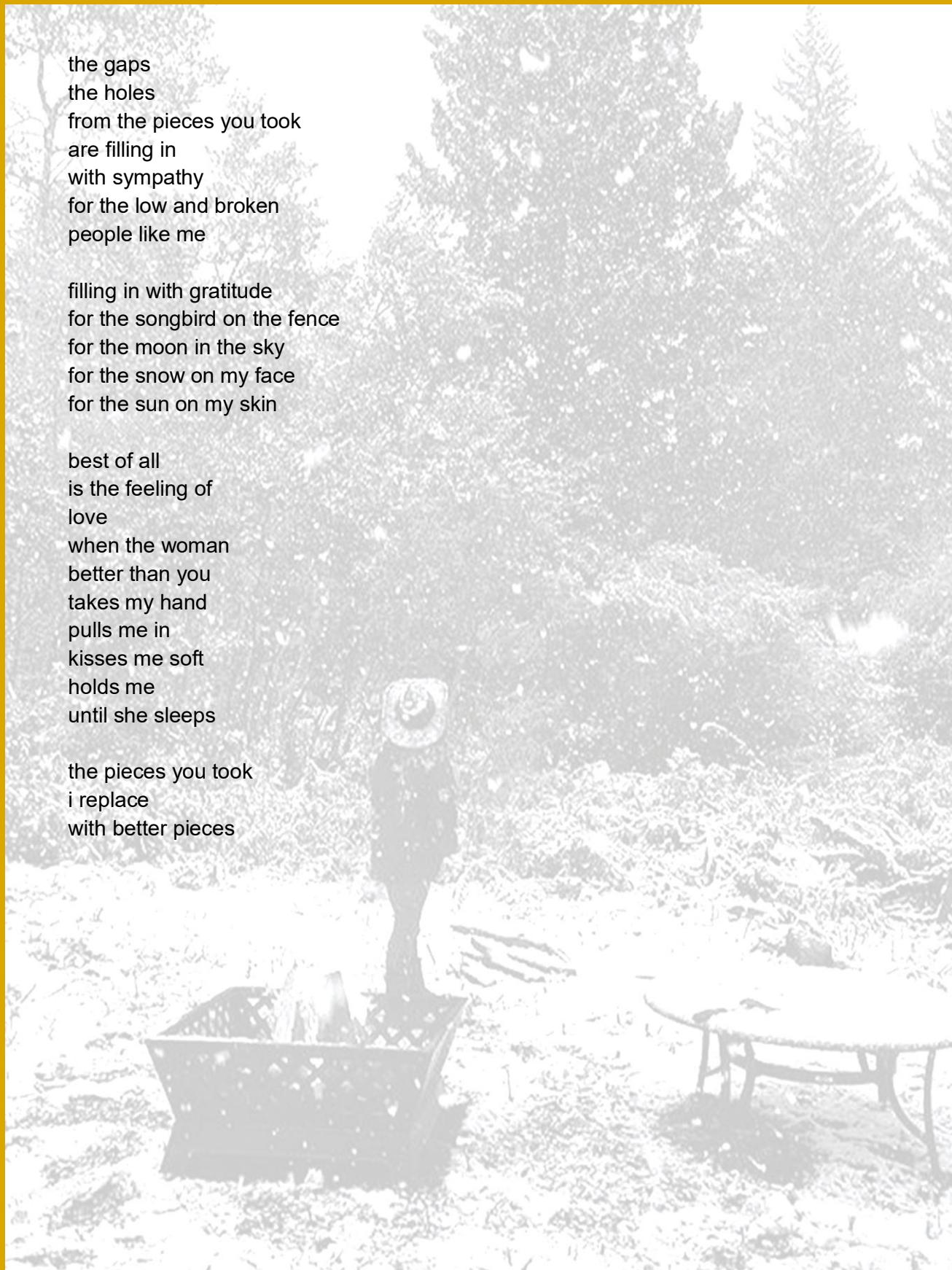
so i'll find a new home  
a new love  
a new song  
a new memory  
to play in my mind  
as i fall asleep

the gaps  
the holes  
from the pieces you took  
are filling in  
with sympathy  
for the low and broken  
people like me

filling in with gratitude  
for the songbird on the fence  
for the moon in the sky  
for the snow on my face  
for the sun on my skin

best of all  
is the feeling of  
love  
when the woman  
better than you  
takes my hand  
pulls me in  
kisses me soft  
holds me  
until she sleeps

the pieces you took  
i replace  
with better pieces

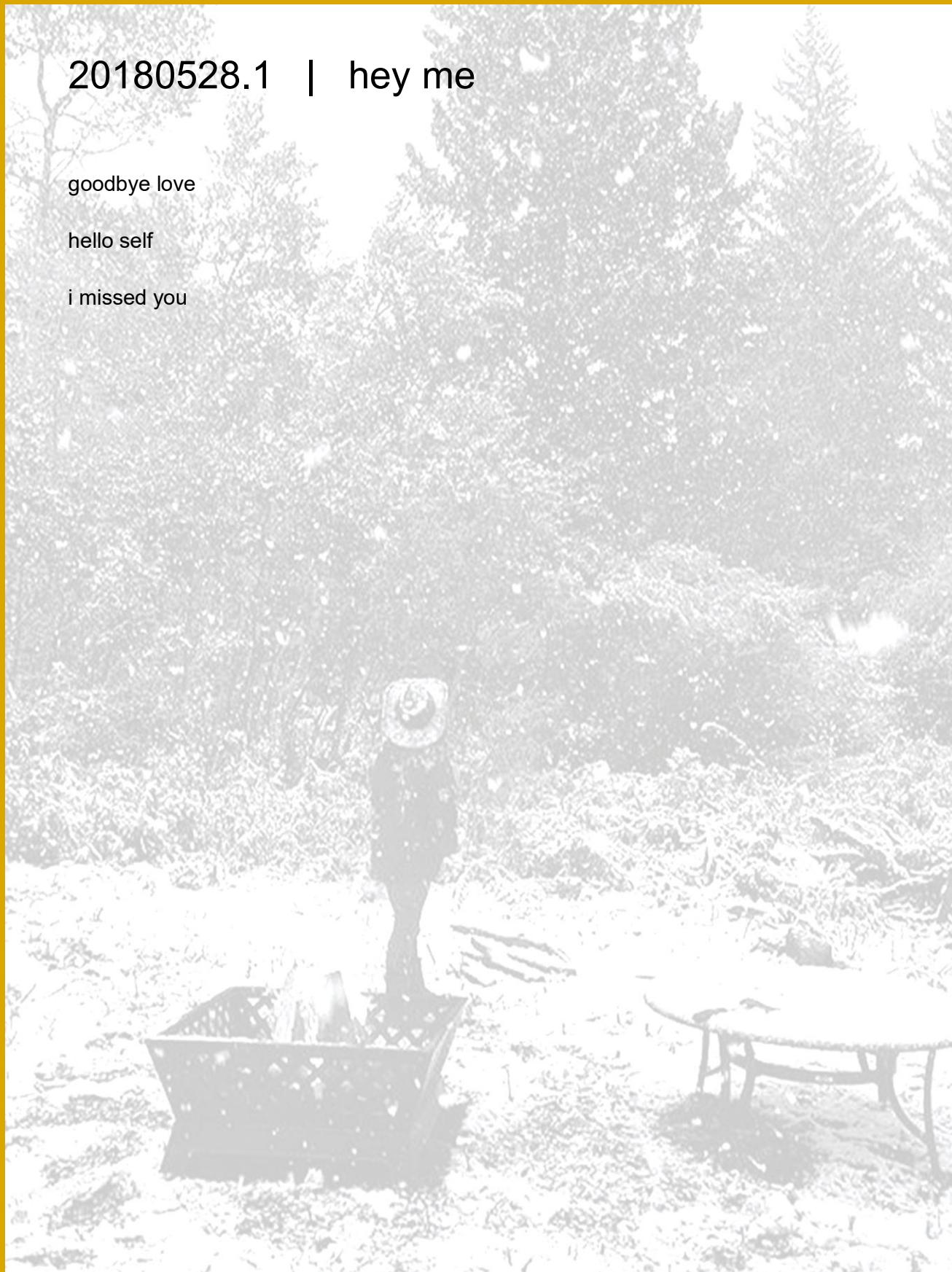


20180528.1 | hey me

goodbye love

hello self

i missed you



## 20180528.2 | alone together

women  
have come  
and have gone

but the moon  
at 3 a.m.  
while the world sleeps  
is the same

it waits for me  
to rise  
and smoke

and i pray  
to an inky sky  
with back-light clouds  
and the distant stars  
telling me  
i am alone

and this is okay

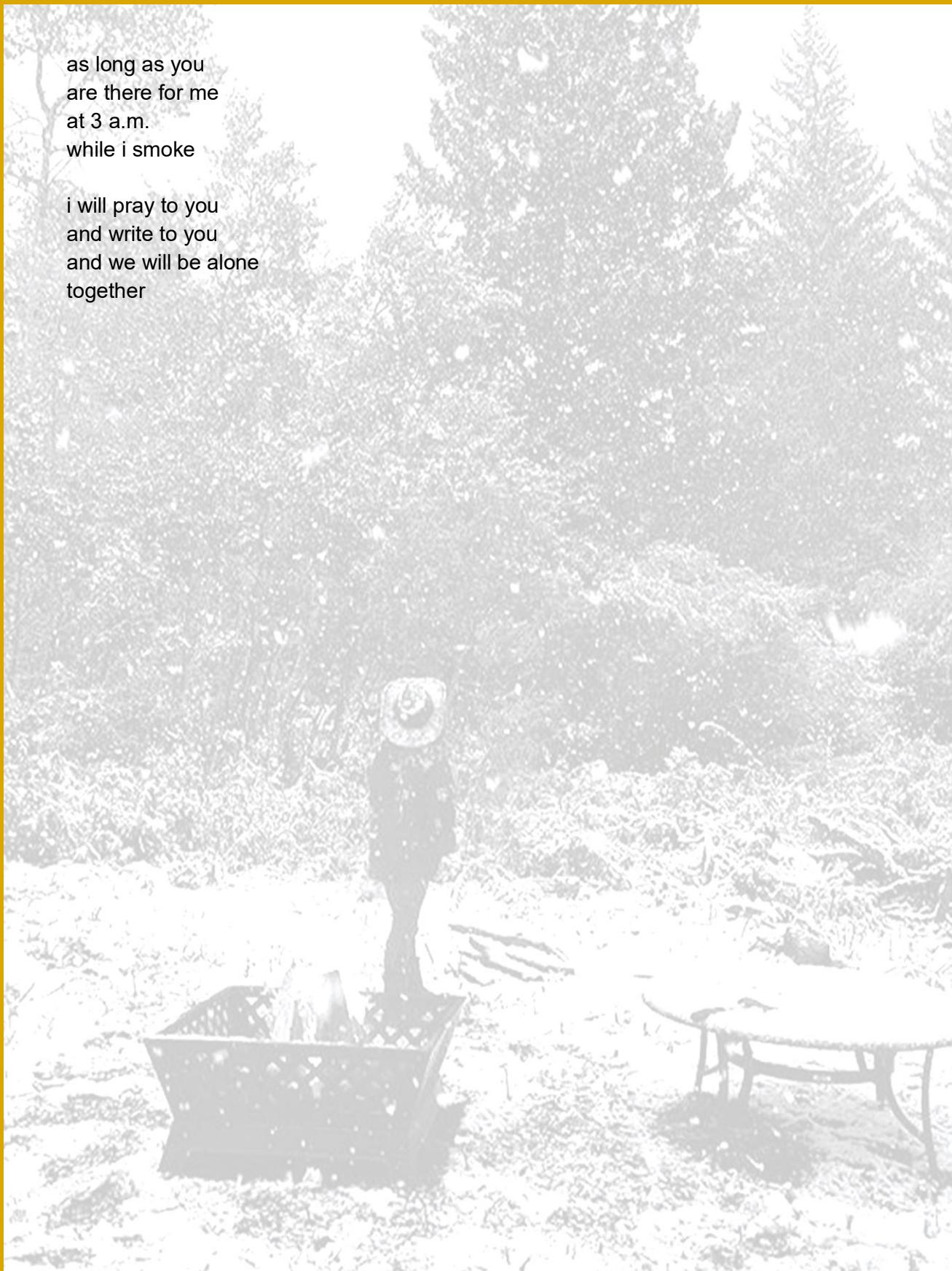
this is the universe

i exist  
the earth exists  
the moon exists  
and we are all  
floating alone  
together

and this is more than  
okay  
It is perfect

as long as you  
are there for me  
at 3 a.m.  
while i smoke

i will pray to you  
and write to you  
and we will be alone  
together



## 20180528.3 | sand thru fingers

my hands are empty

but i have held so very much

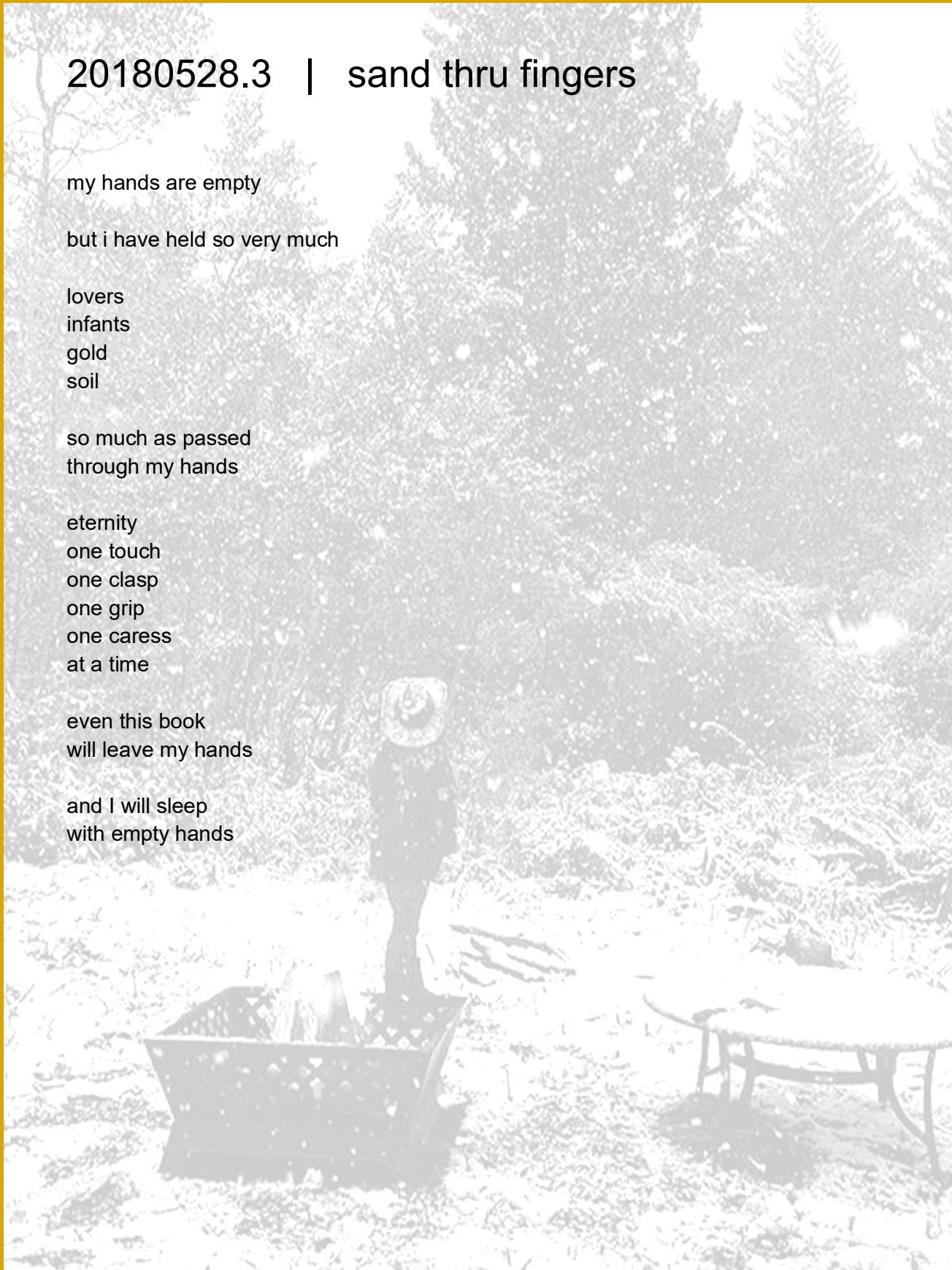
lovers  
infants  
gold  
soil

so much as passed  
through my hands

eternity  
one touch  
one clasp  
one grip  
one caress  
at a time

even this book  
will leave my hands

and I will sleep  
with empty hands

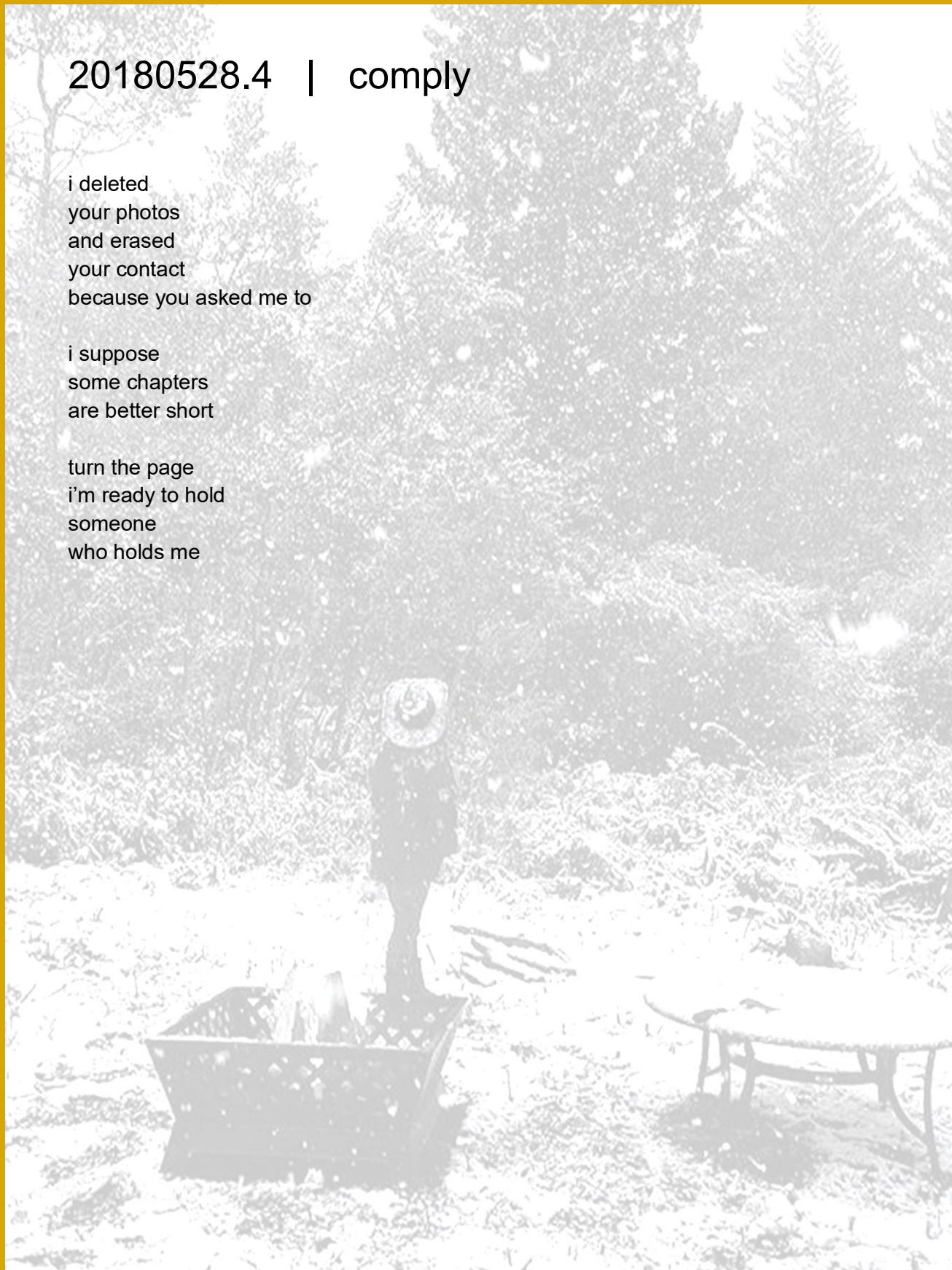


## 20180528.4 | comply

i deleted  
your photos  
and erased  
your contact  
because you asked me to

i suppose  
some chapters  
are better short

turn the page  
i'm ready to hold  
someone  
who holds me



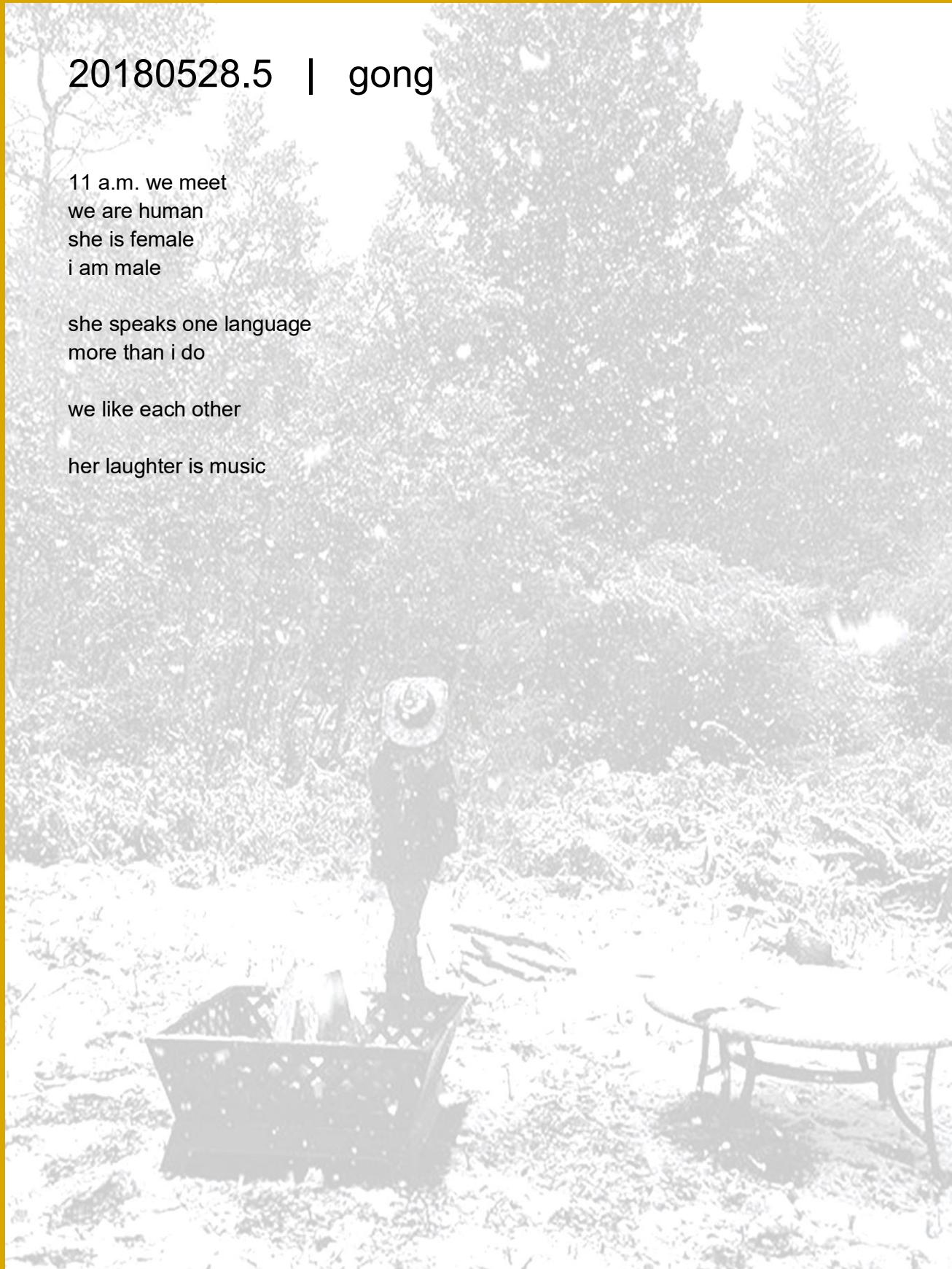
## 20180528.5 | gong

11 a.m. we meet  
we are human  
she is female  
i am male

she speaks one language  
more than i do

we like each other

her laughter is music



# 20180616.1 | pyramids

may 27, 2018

june 15, 2018

dates i

would like

to carry

in my soul

for life

death

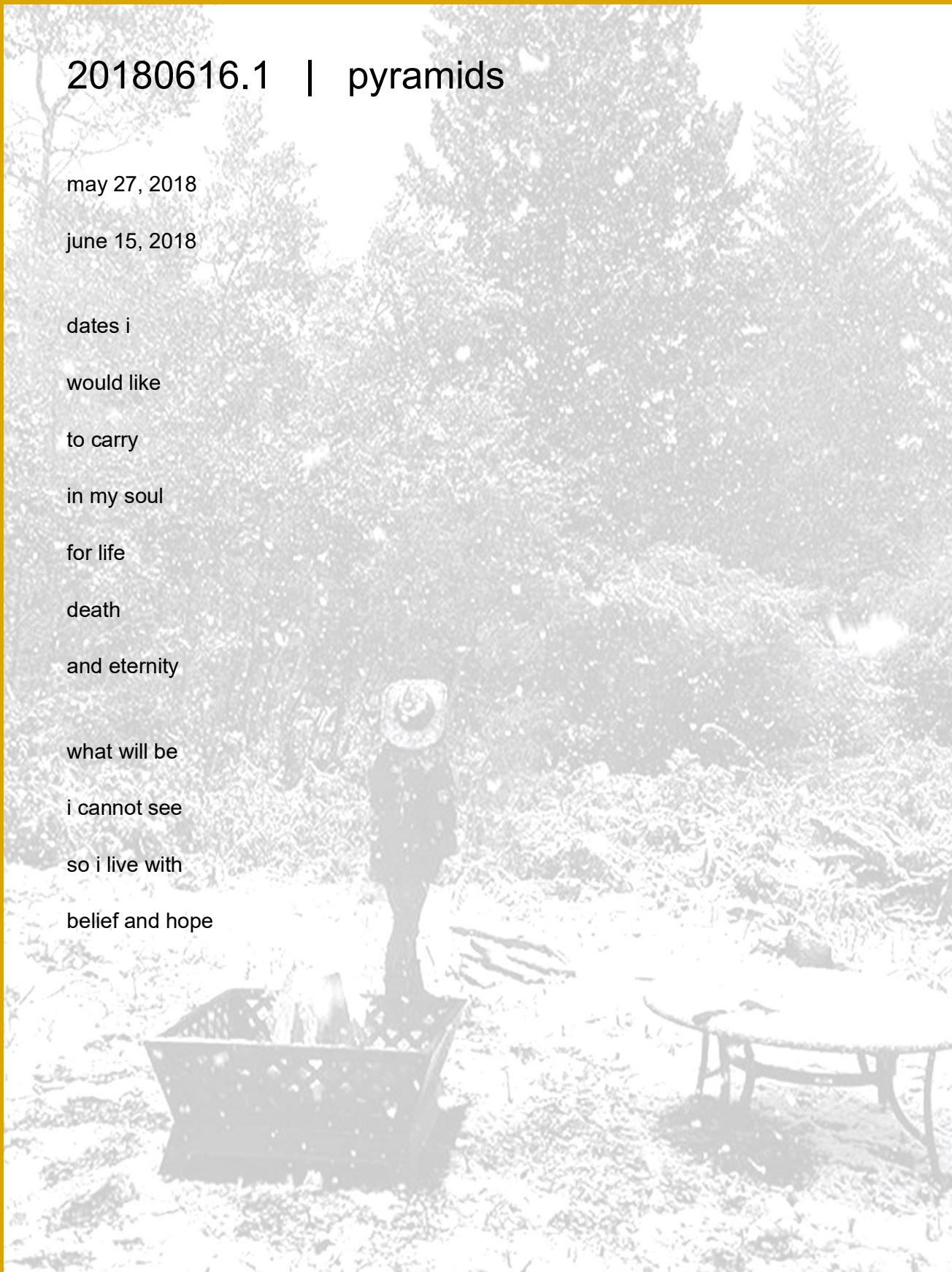
and eternity

what will be

i cannot see

so i live with

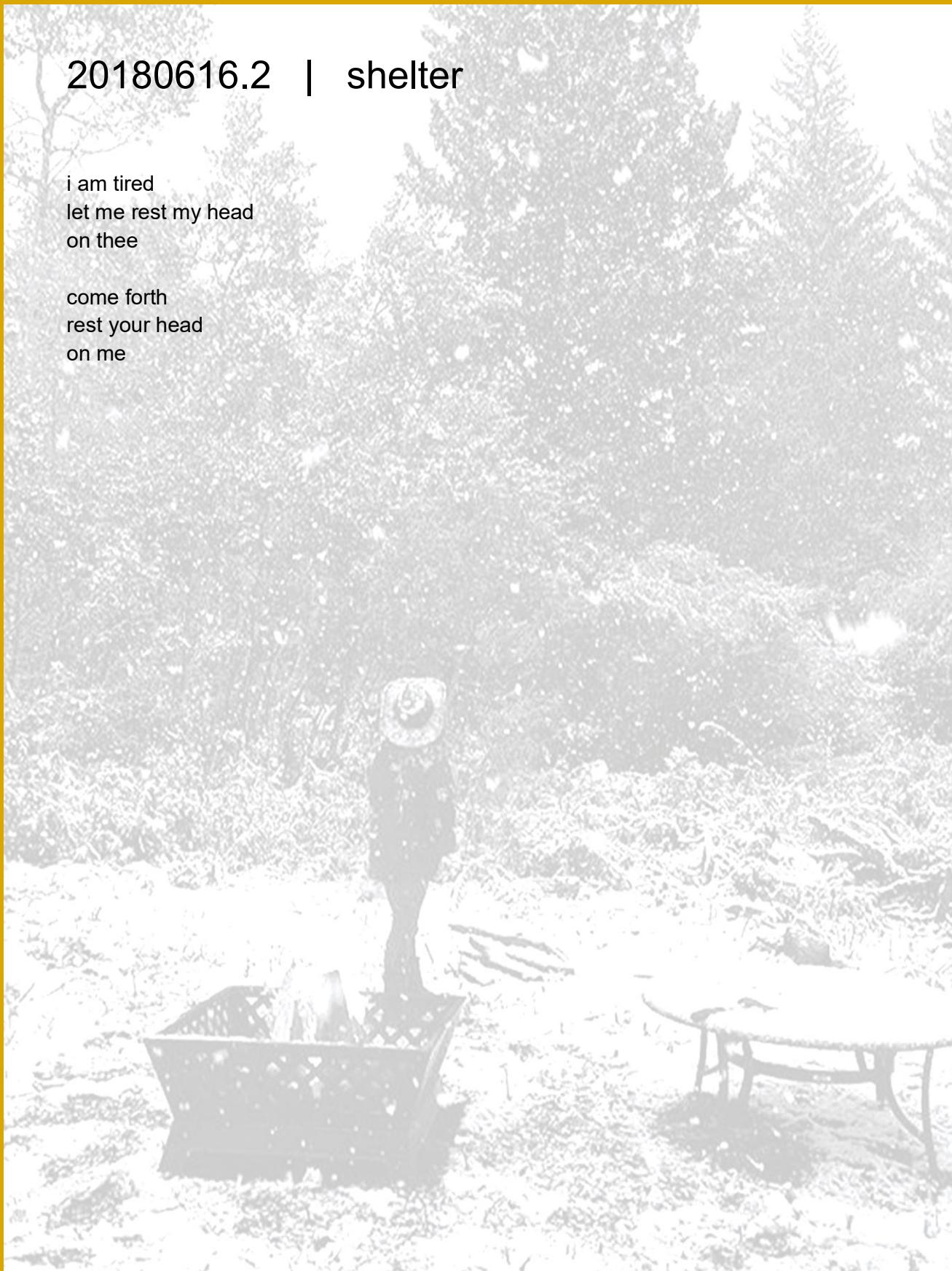
belief and hope



## 20180616.2 | shelter

i am tired  
let me rest my head  
on thee

come forth  
rest your head  
on me



# 20180618.1 | purpose

time

talk

move

sleep

smile

laugh



## 20180702.1 | orbit

she is more like me  
than anyone i've ever met

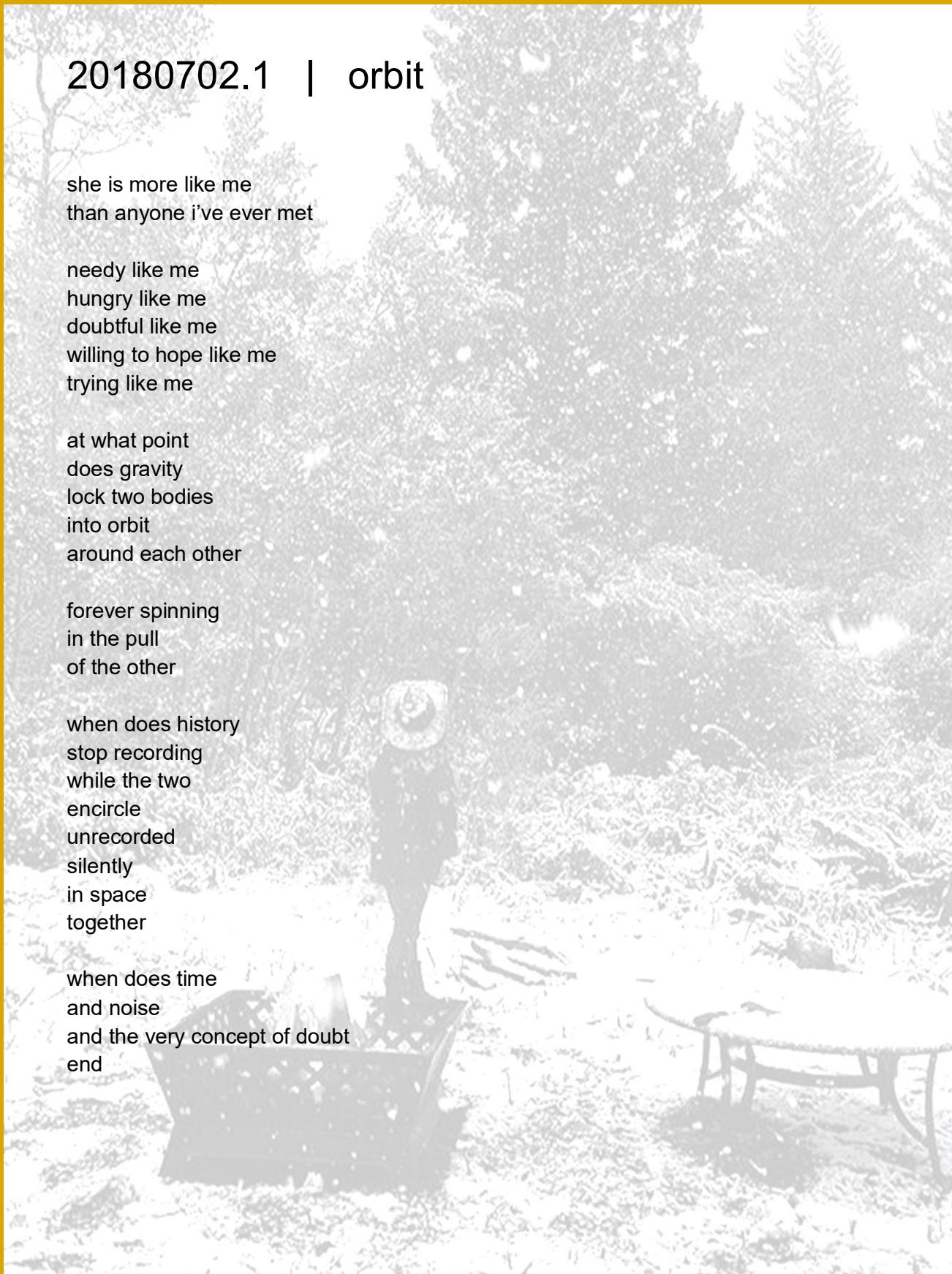
needy like me  
hungry like me  
doubtful like me  
willing to hope like me  
trying like me

at what point  
does gravity  
lock two bodies  
into orbit  
around each other

forever spinning  
in the pull  
of the other

when does history  
stop recording  
while the two  
encircle  
unrecorded  
silently  
in space  
together

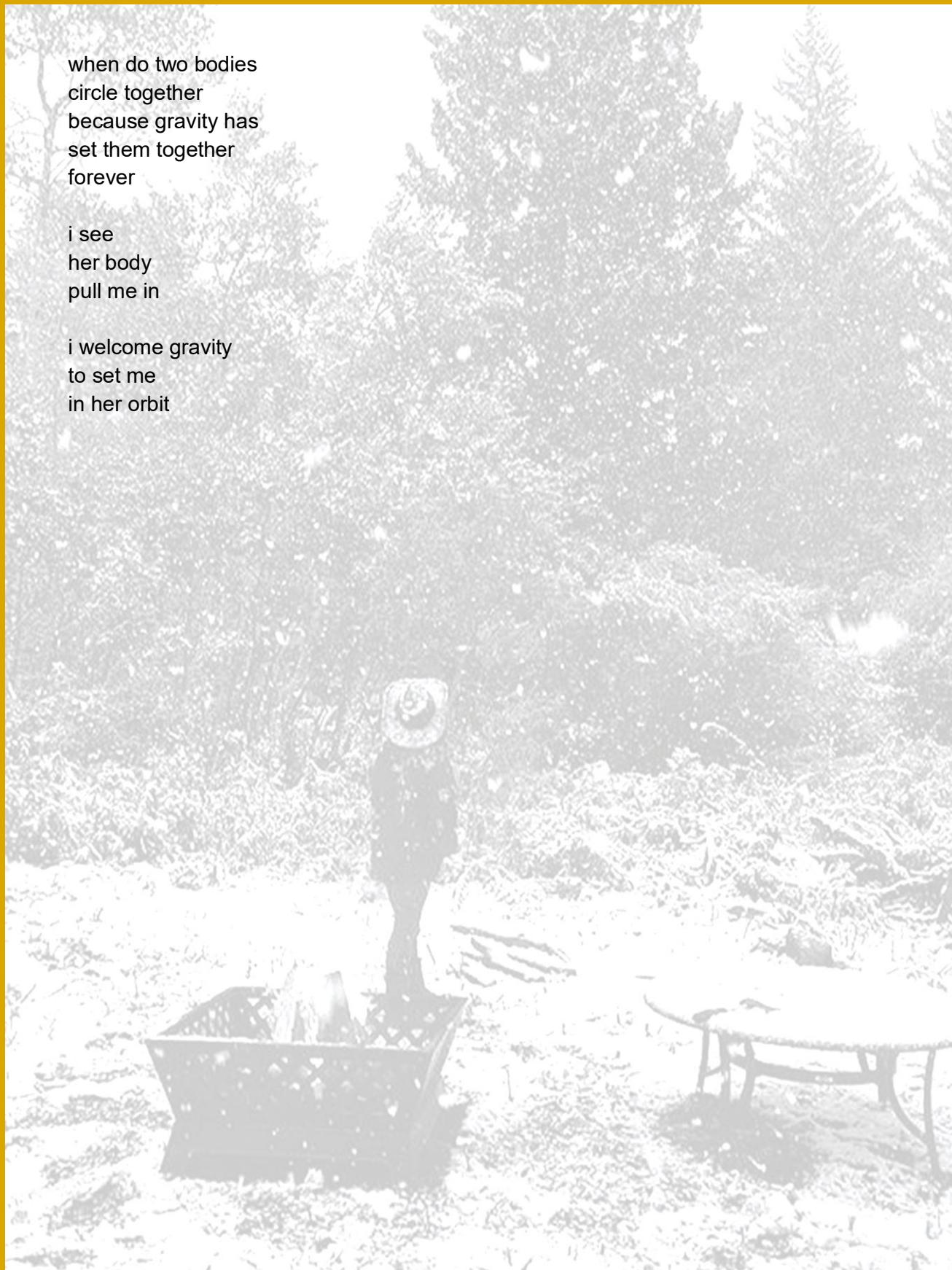
when does time  
and noise  
and the very concept of doubt  
end



when do two bodies  
circle together  
because gravity has  
set them together  
forever

i see  
her body  
pull me in

i welcome gravity  
to set me  
in her orbit



## 20180702.2 | in what dimension

music keeps telling me  
what i'm feeling

money keeps me on a schedule

the Spirit  
occasionally  
sets me on fire

orgasms make my flesh sweat

sleep drowns out my voice

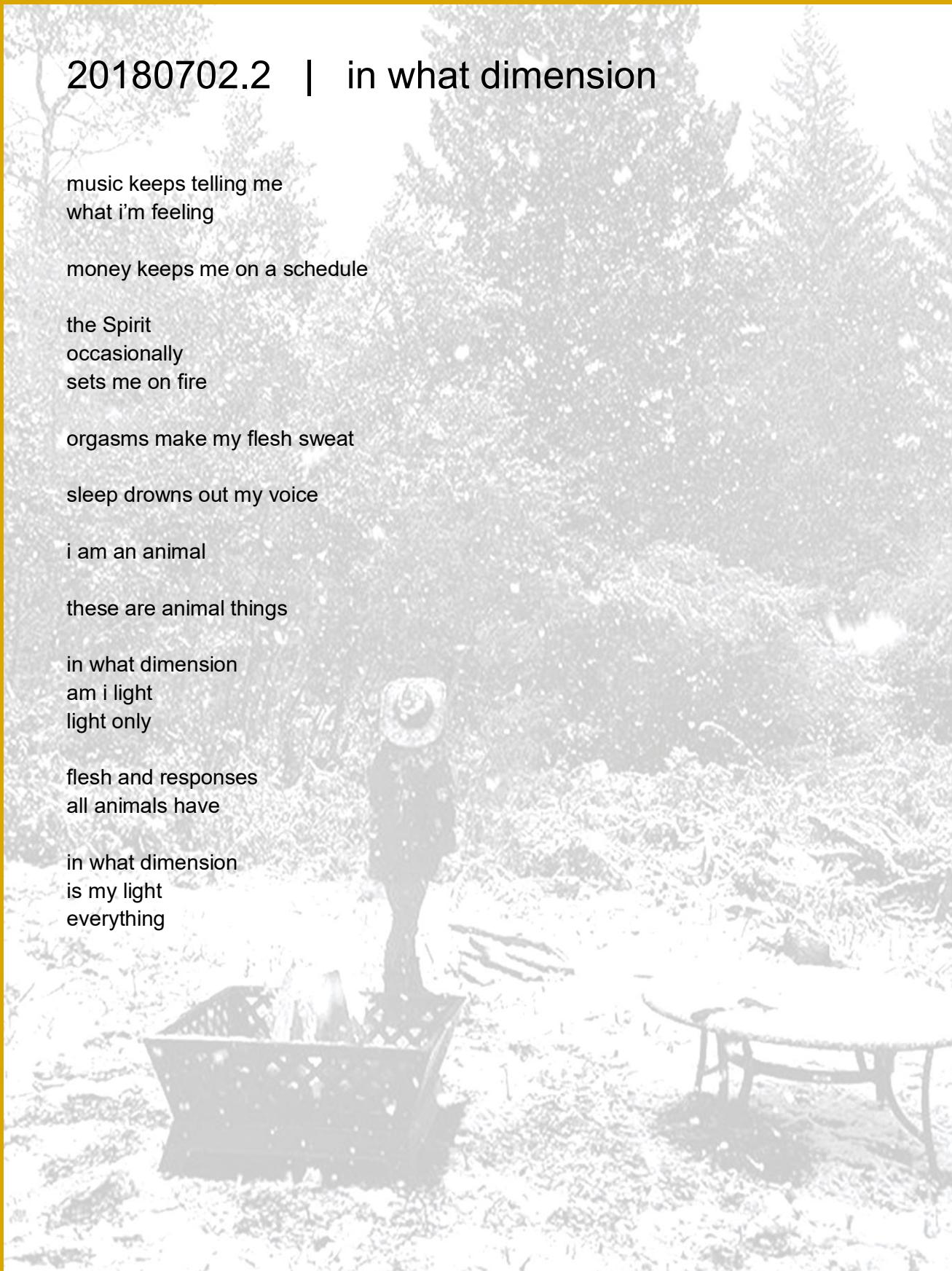
i am an animal

these are animal things

in what dimension  
am i light  
light only

flesh and responses  
all animals have

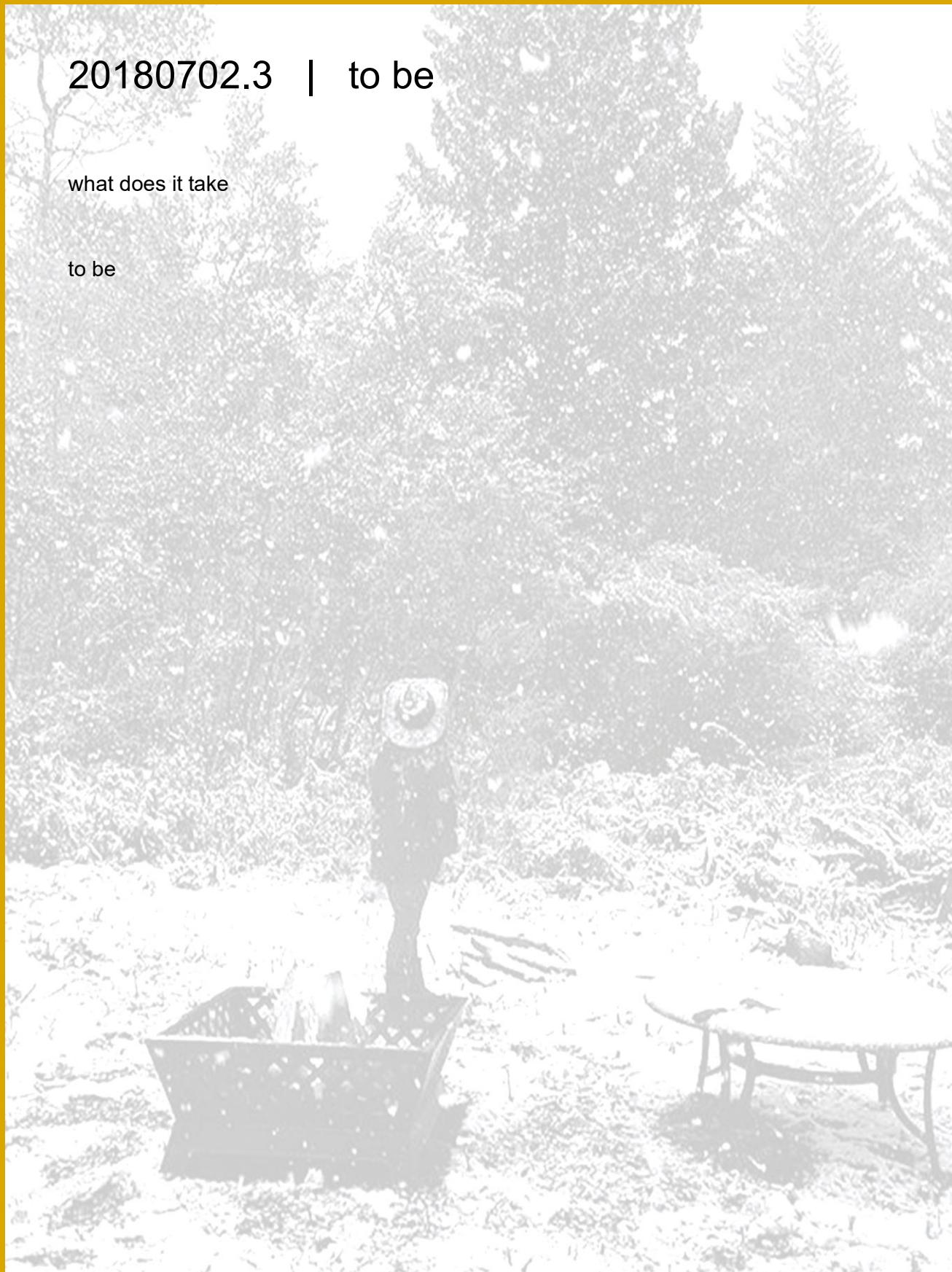
in what dimension  
is my light  
everything



20180702.3 | to be

what does it take

to be



## 20180702.4 | color

i am pink  
she is yellow

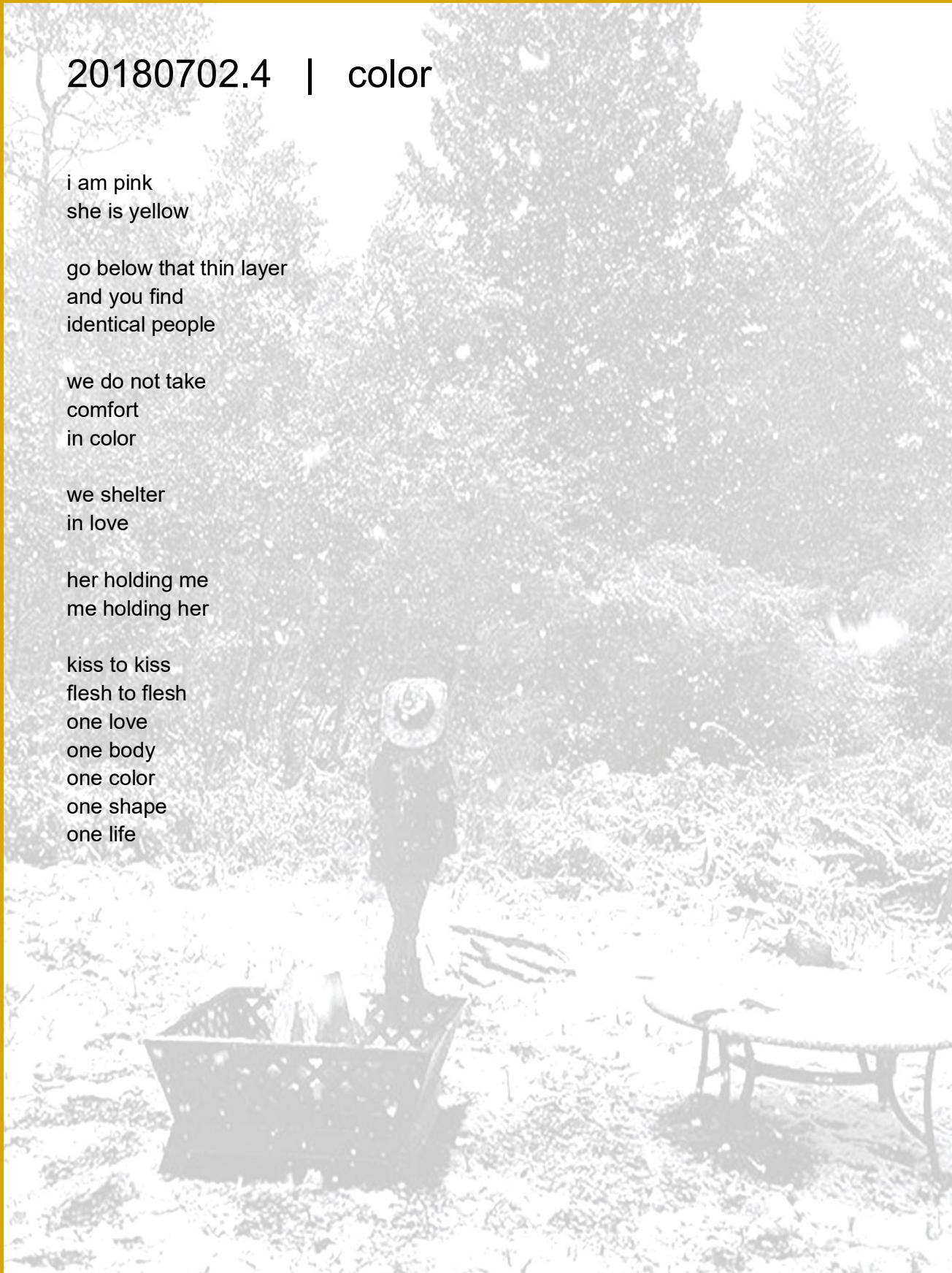
go below that thin layer  
and you find  
identical people

we do not take  
comfort  
in color

we shelter  
in love

her holding me  
me holding her

kiss to kiss  
flesh to flesh  
one love  
one body  
one color  
one shape  
one life



## 20180703.1 | the world melts

not sure why this works  
but it works

she says I look clean  
i say her laugh is like  
comforting ice  
on a burning heart

love takes a happy shape  
sometimes

sometimes love  
is a hand  
and a smile  
and a head  
resting on a chest

sometimes love  
doesn't break you  
financially  
emotionally  
physically  
spiritually

sometimes love  
is drinking instant coffee  
in paper cups  
late morning  
in a tiny camper  
on the side of the mountain  
high above clyde lake

love is grateful  
for all things

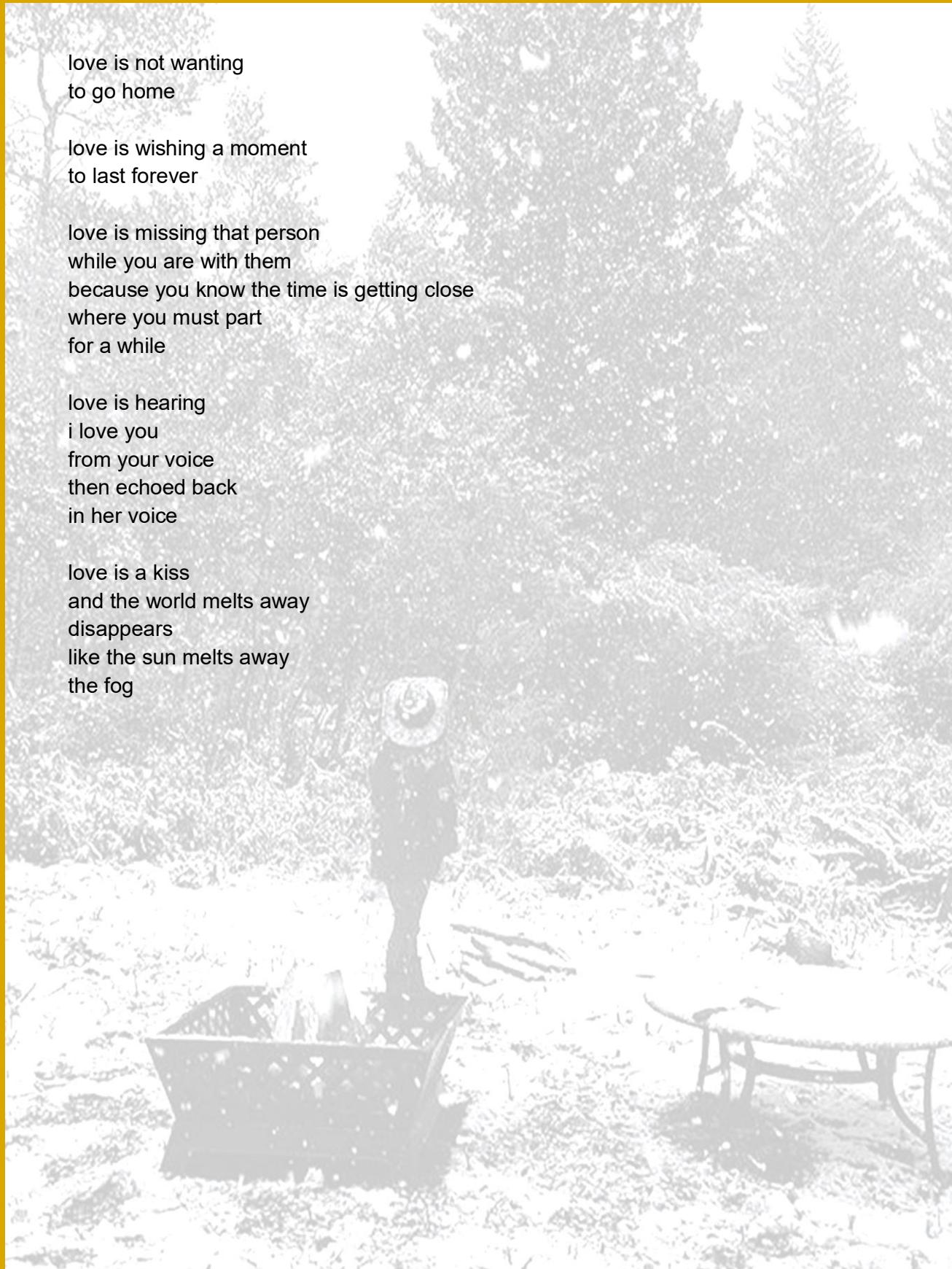
love is not wanting  
to go home

love is wishing a moment  
to last forever

love is missing that person  
while you are with them  
because you know the time is getting close  
where you must part  
for a while

love is hearing  
i love you  
from your voice  
then echoed back  
in her voice

love is a kiss  
and the world melts away  
disappears  
like the sun melts away  
the fog



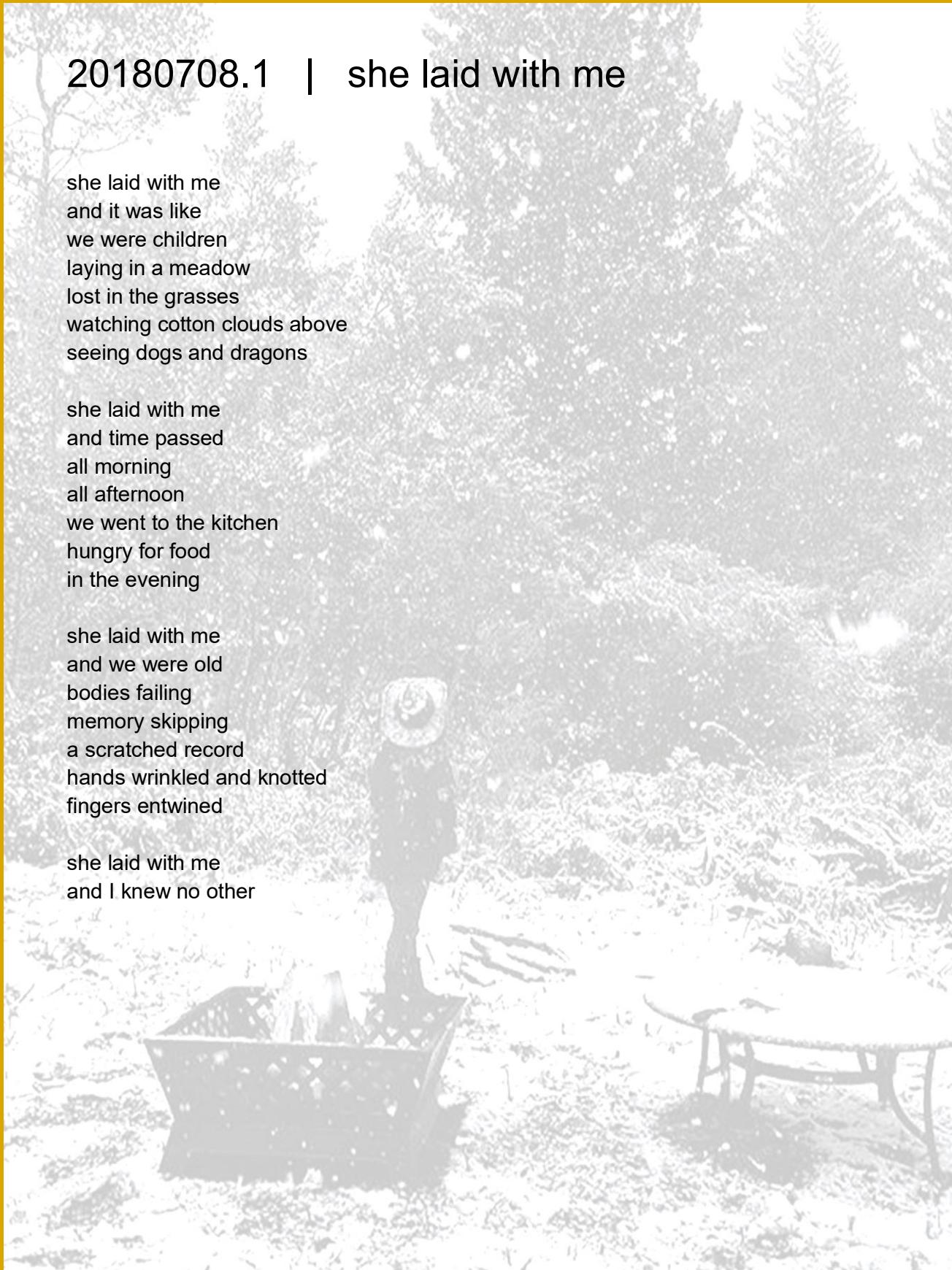
## 20180708.1 | she laid with me

she laid with me  
and it was like  
we were children  
laying in a meadow  
lost in the grasses  
watching cotton clouds above  
seeing dogs and dragons

she laid with me  
and time passed  
all morning  
all afternoon  
we went to the kitchen  
hungry for food  
in the evening

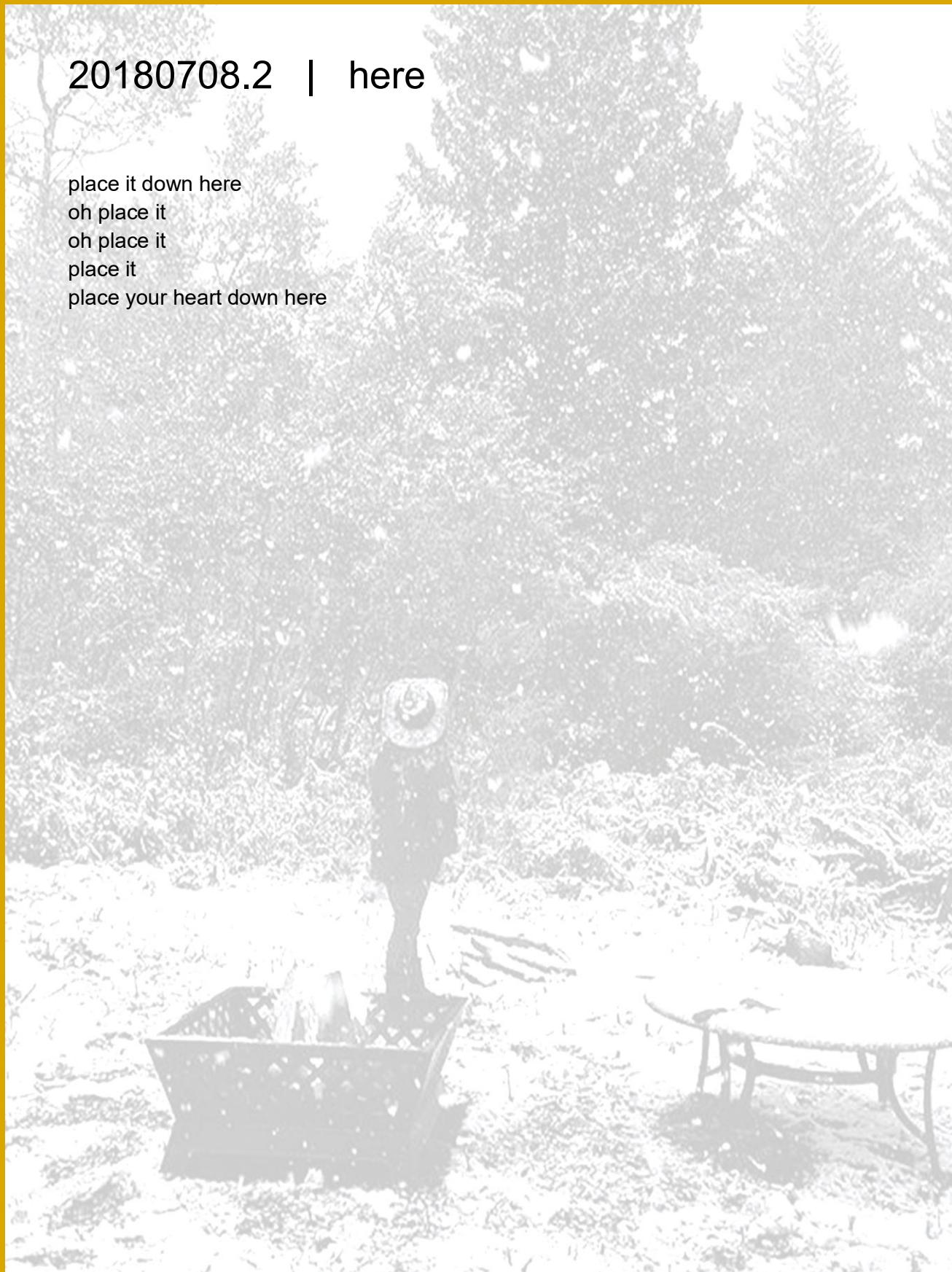
she laid with me  
and we were old  
bodies failing  
memory skipping  
a scratched record  
hands wrinkled and knotted  
fingers entwined

she laid with me  
and I knew no other



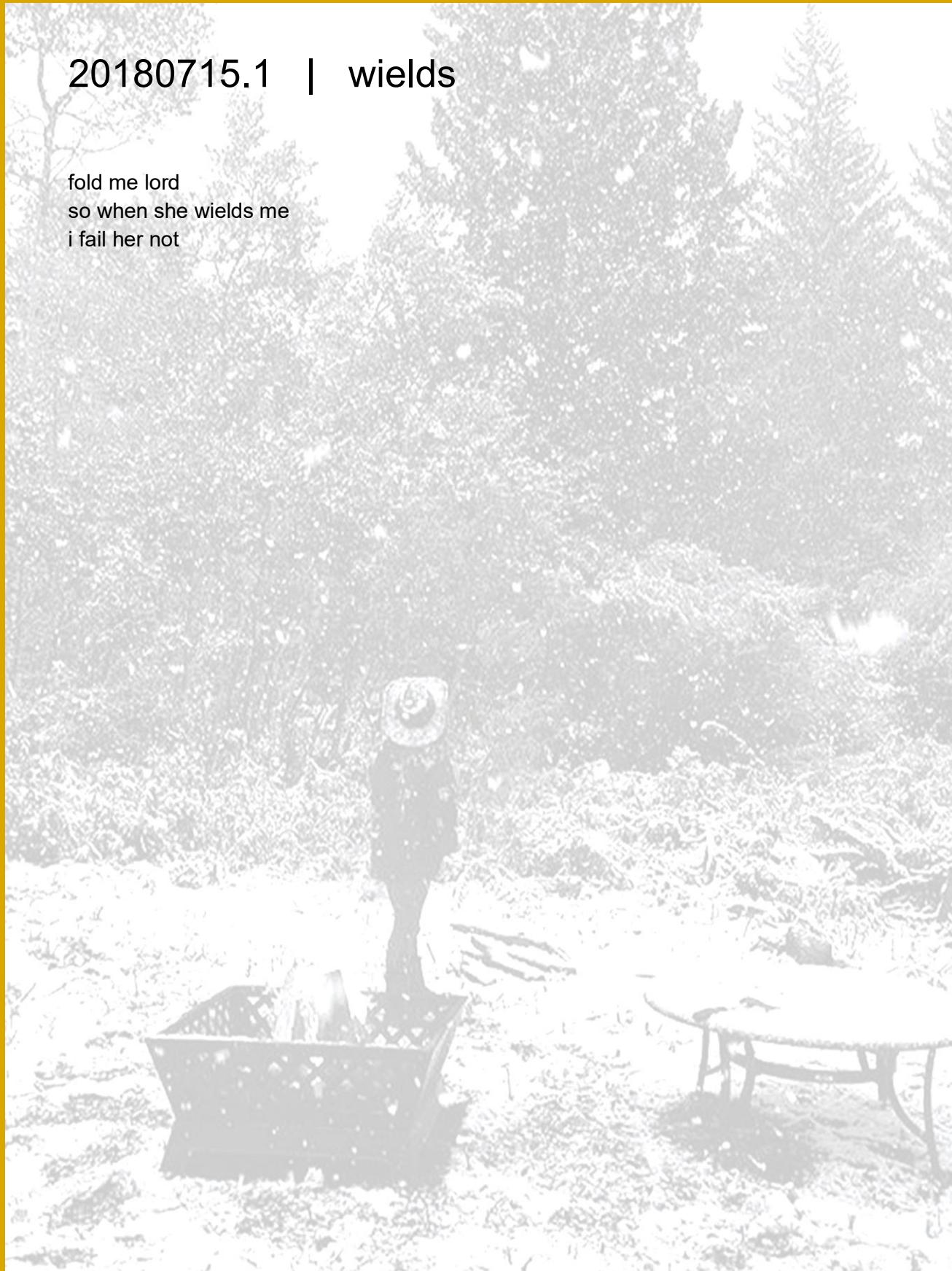
20180708.2 | here

place it down here  
oh place it  
oh place it  
place it  
place your heart down here



20180715.1 | wields

fold me lord  
so when she wields me  
i fail her not



## 20180715.2 | all things in one

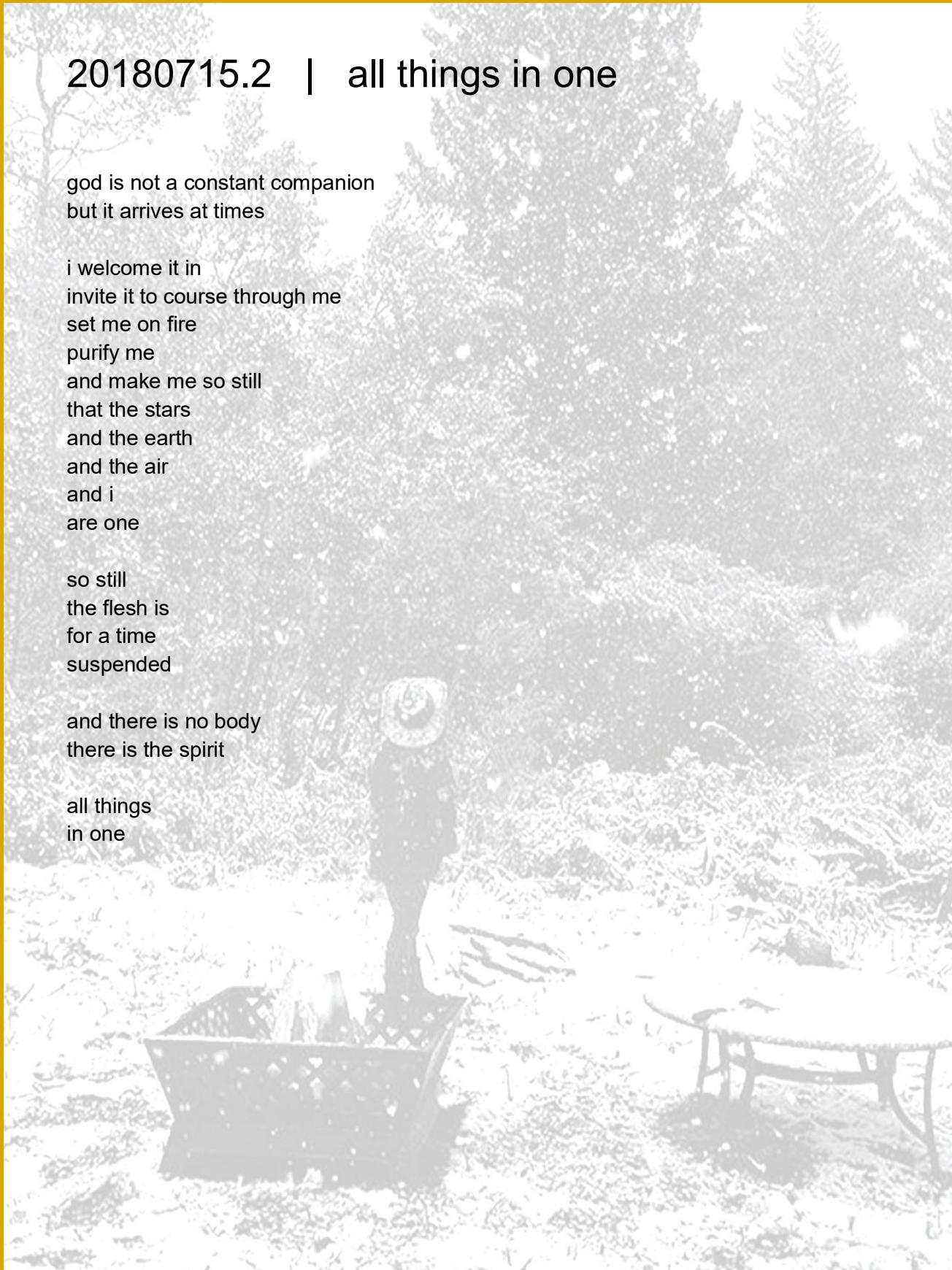
god is not a constant companion  
but it arrives at times

i welcome it in  
invite it to course through me  
set me on fire  
purify me  
and make me so still  
that the stars  
and the earth  
and the air  
and i  
are one

so still  
the flesh is  
for a time  
suspended

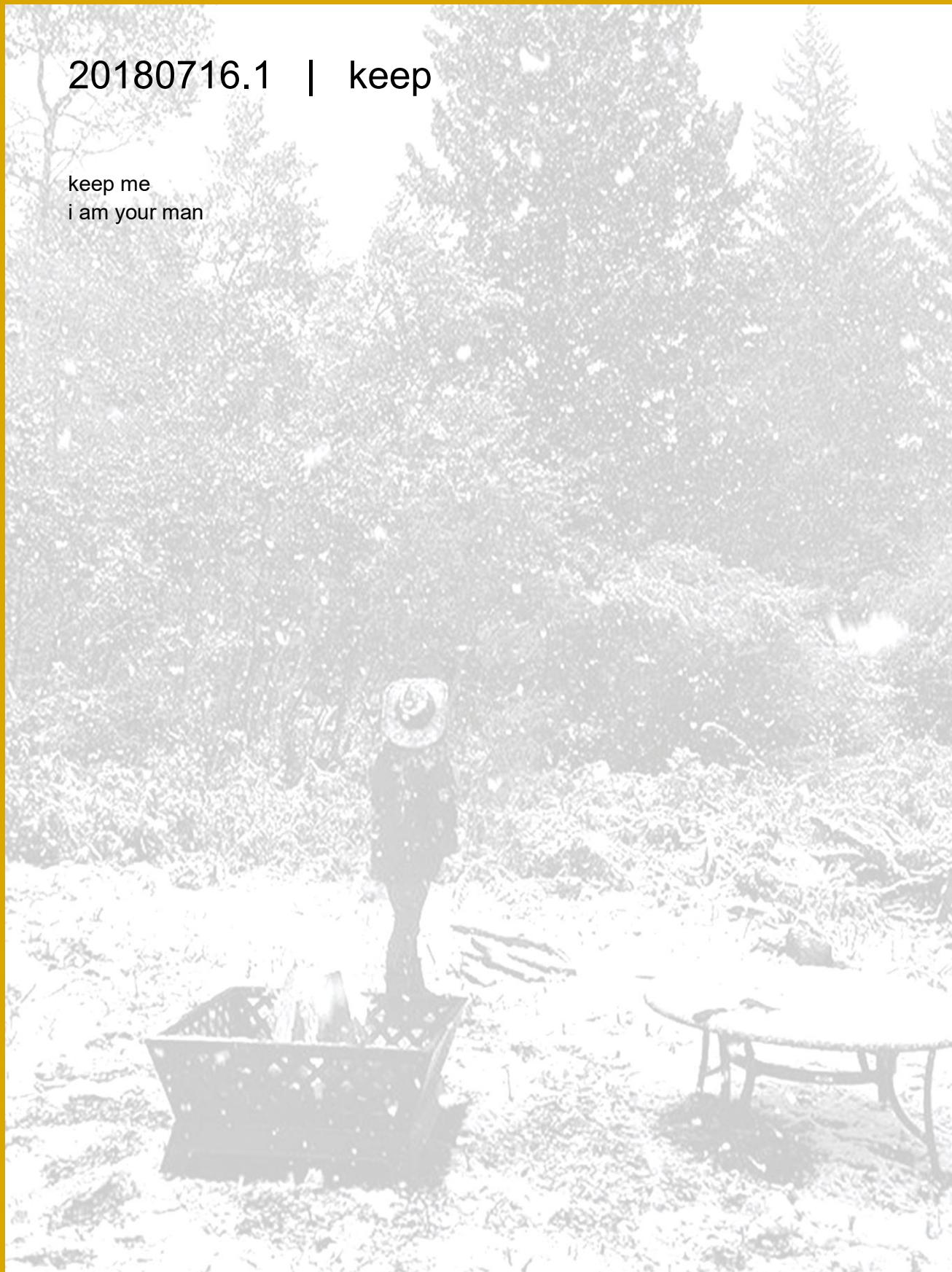
and there is no body  
there is the spirit

all things  
in one



20180716.1 | keep

keep me  
i am your man



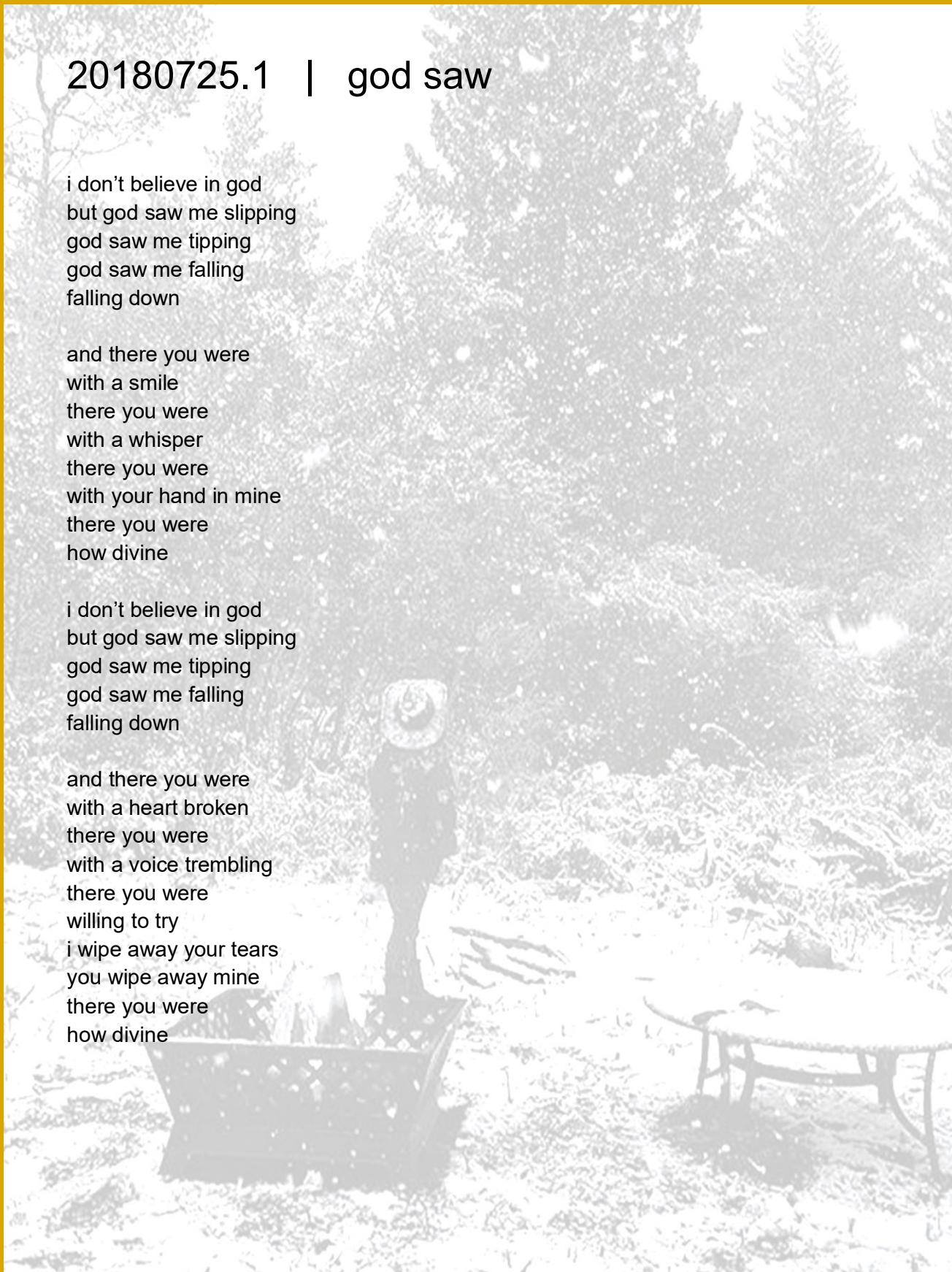
## 20180725.1 | god saw

i don't believe in god  
but god saw me slipping  
god saw me tipping  
god saw me falling  
falling down

and there you were  
with a smile  
there you were  
with a whisper  
there you were  
with your hand in mine  
there you were  
how divine

i don't believe in god  
but god saw me slipping  
god saw me tipping  
god saw me falling  
falling down

and there you were  
with a heart broken  
there you were  
with a voice trembling  
there you were  
willing to try  
i wipe away your tears  
you wipe away mine  
there you were  
how divine

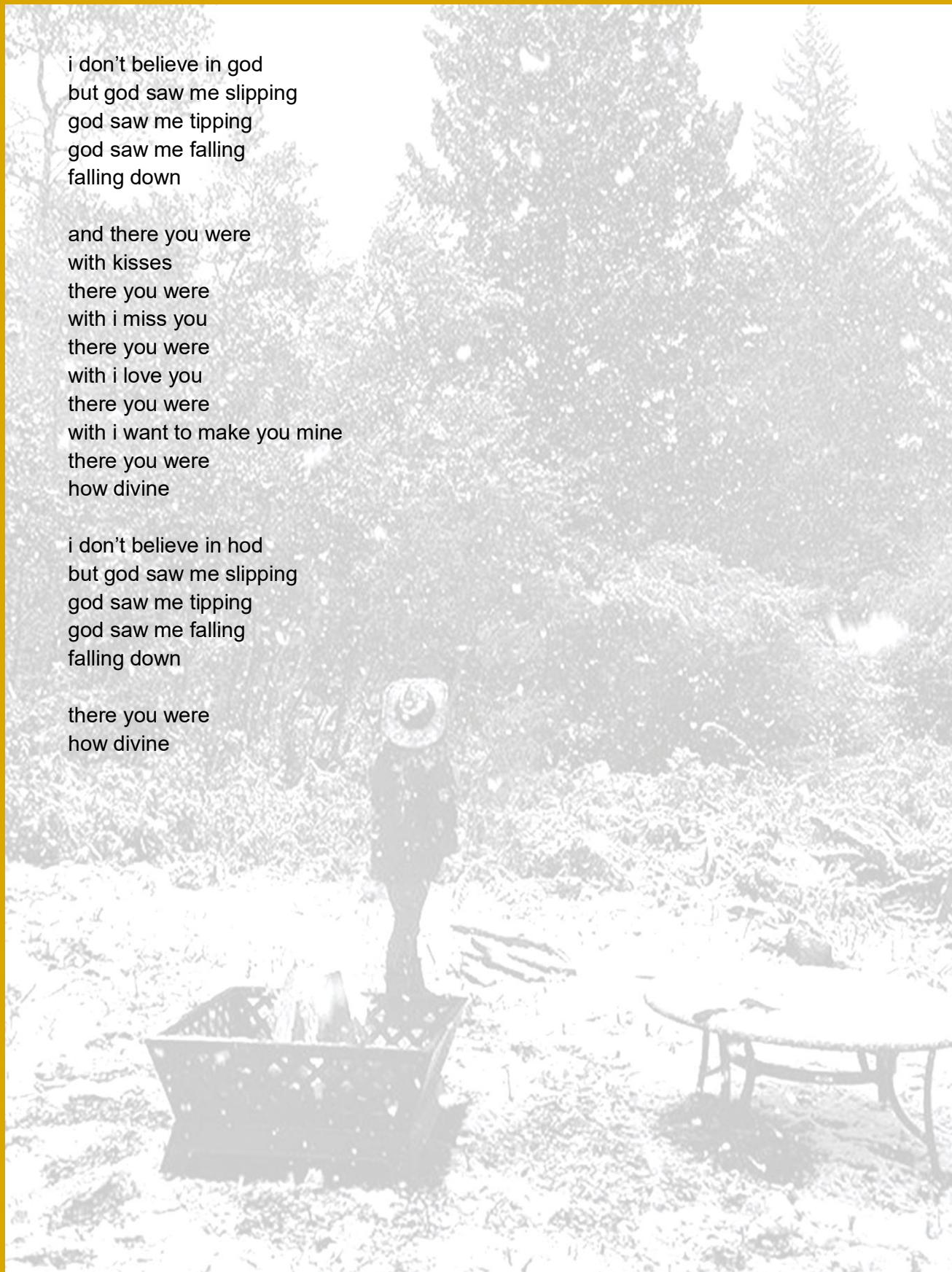


i don't believe in god  
but god saw me slipping  
god saw me tipping  
god saw me falling  
falling down

and there you were  
with kisses  
there you were  
with i miss you  
there you were  
with i love you  
there you were  
with i want to make you mine  
there you were  
how divine

i don't believe in god  
but god saw me slipping  
god saw me tipping  
god saw me falling  
falling down

there you were  
how divine



## 20180912.1 | push or pull

if you push  
hard enough  
long enough

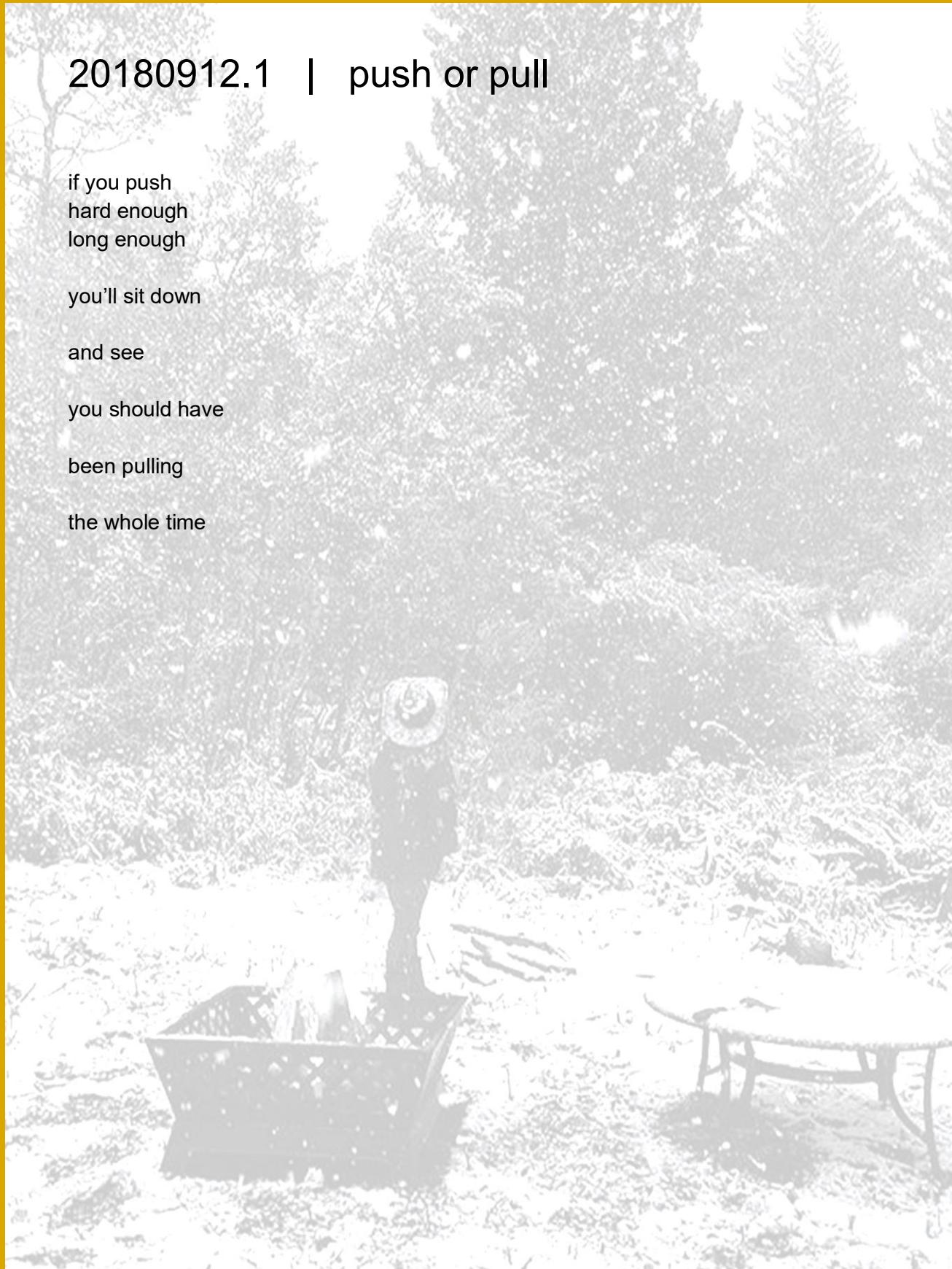
you'll sit down

and see

you should have

been pulling

the whole time

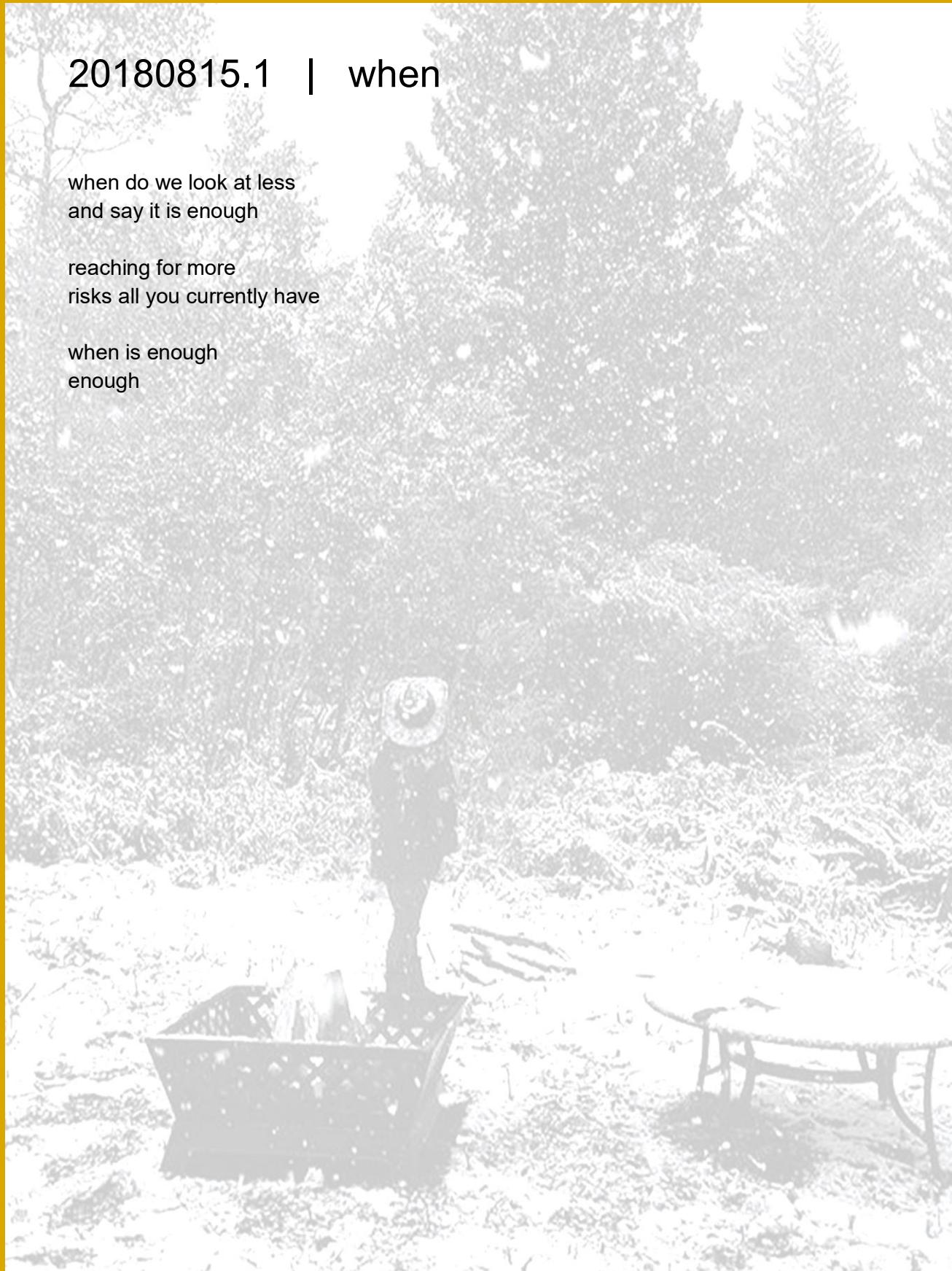


## 20180815.1 | when

when do we look at less  
and say it is enough

reaching for more  
risks all you currently have

when is enough  
enough



## 20180926.1 | anchor

i wish the words would appear  
on this page

i will simply look  
and the right words appear

telling me  
what my thoughts can't find

opening my eyes  
to the truth of my life

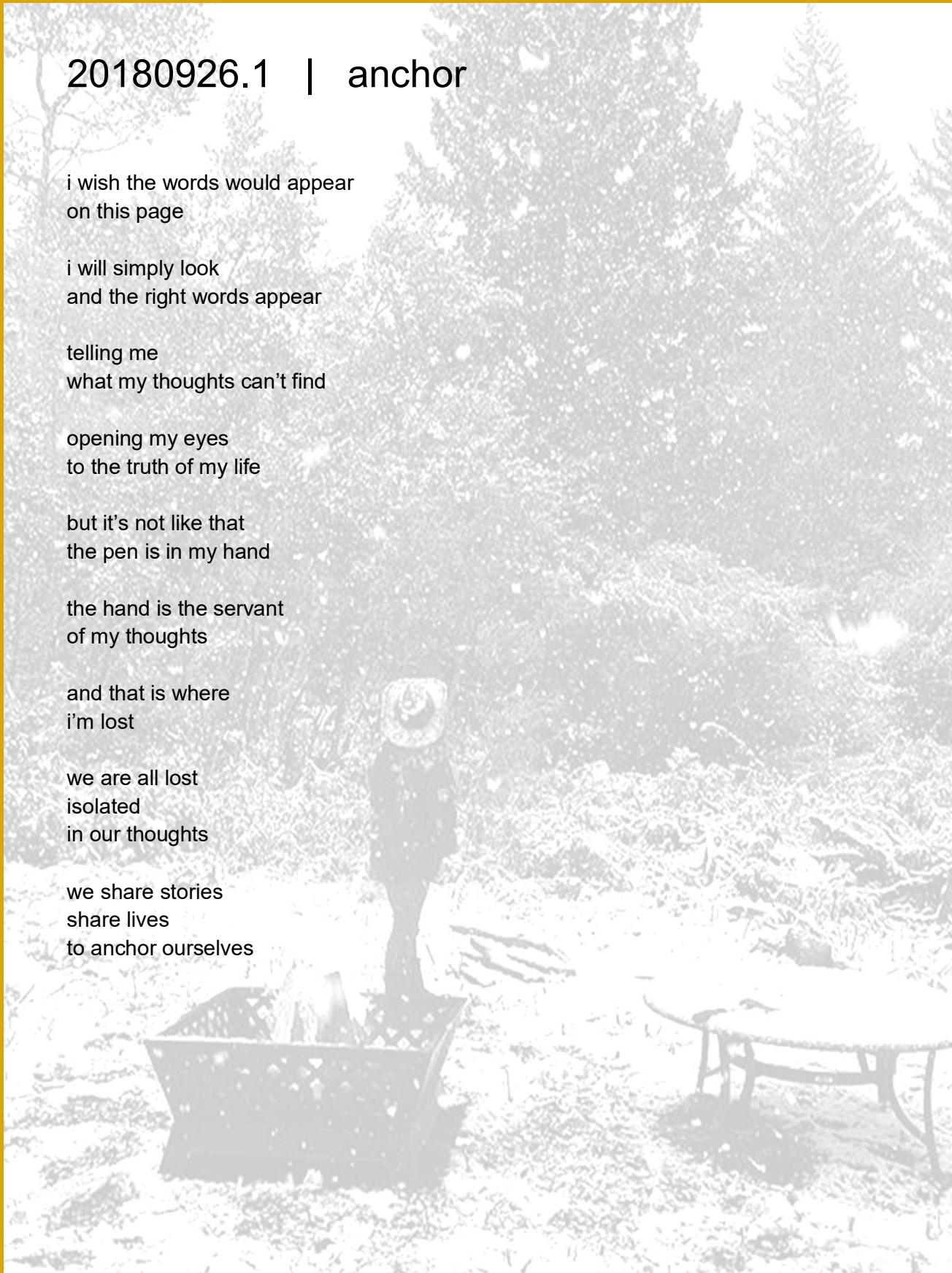
but it's not like that  
the pen is in my hand

the hand is the servant  
of my thoughts

and that is where  
i'm lost

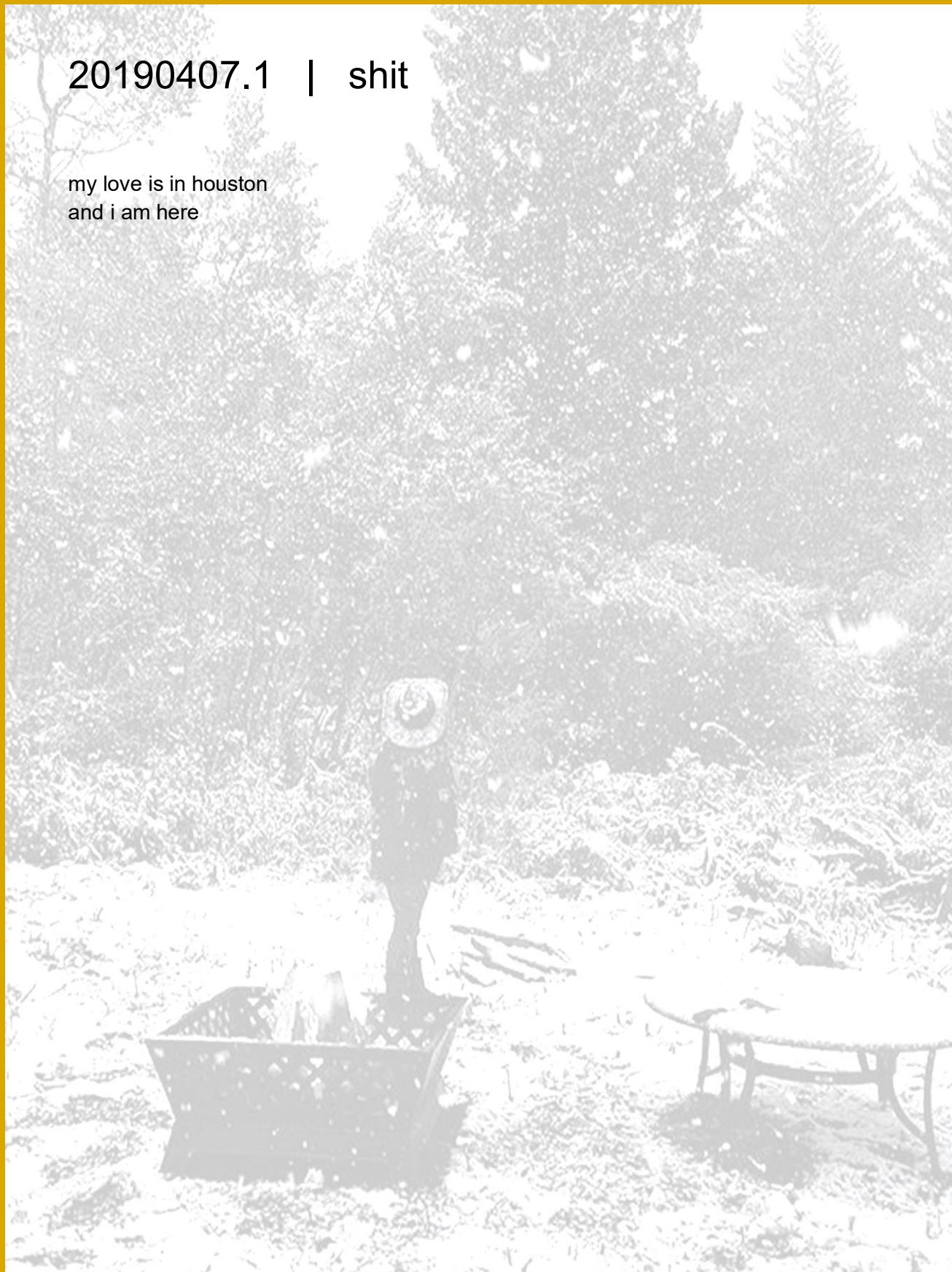
we are all lost  
isolated  
in our thoughts

we share stories  
share lives  
to anchor ourselves



20190407.1 | shit

my love is in houston  
and i am here



## 20190411.1 | to share coffee

what i want  
is to share coffee

and we share  
so much more

days  
weeks  
and a life slips by

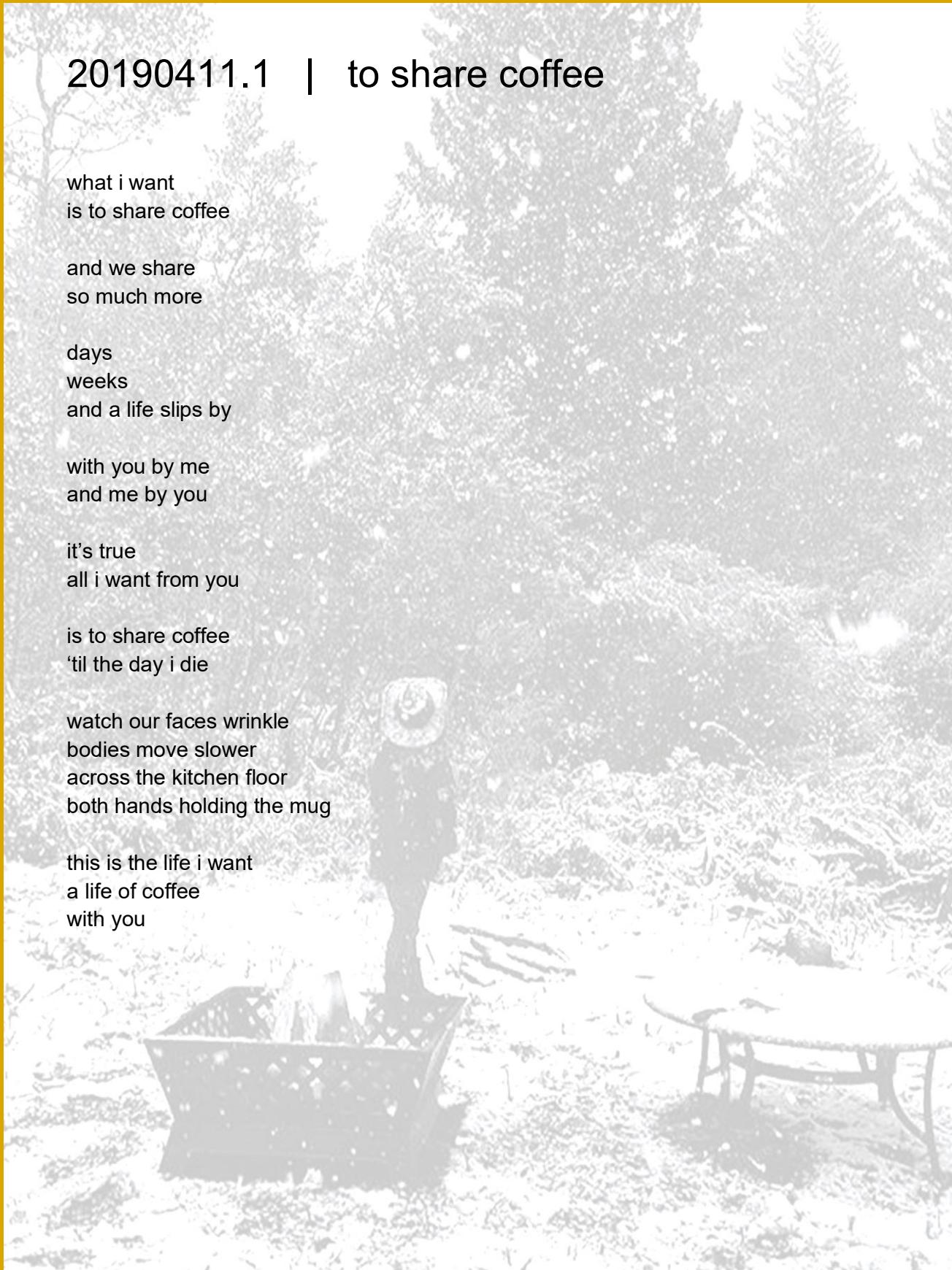
with you by me  
and me by you

it's true  
all i want from you

is to share coffee  
'til the day i die

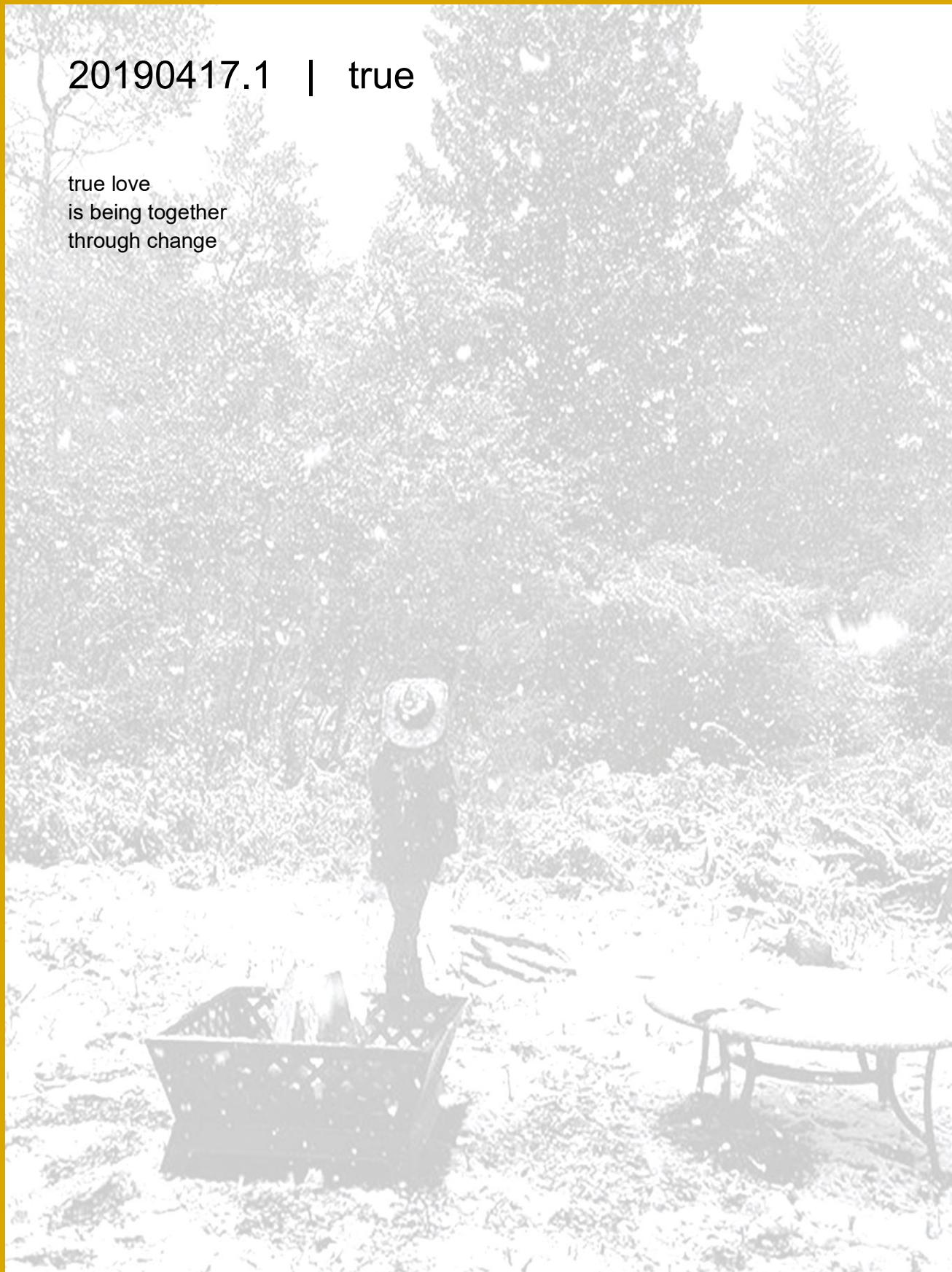
watch our faces wrinkle  
bodies move slower  
across the kitchen floor  
both hands holding the mug

this is the life i want  
a life of coffee  
with you



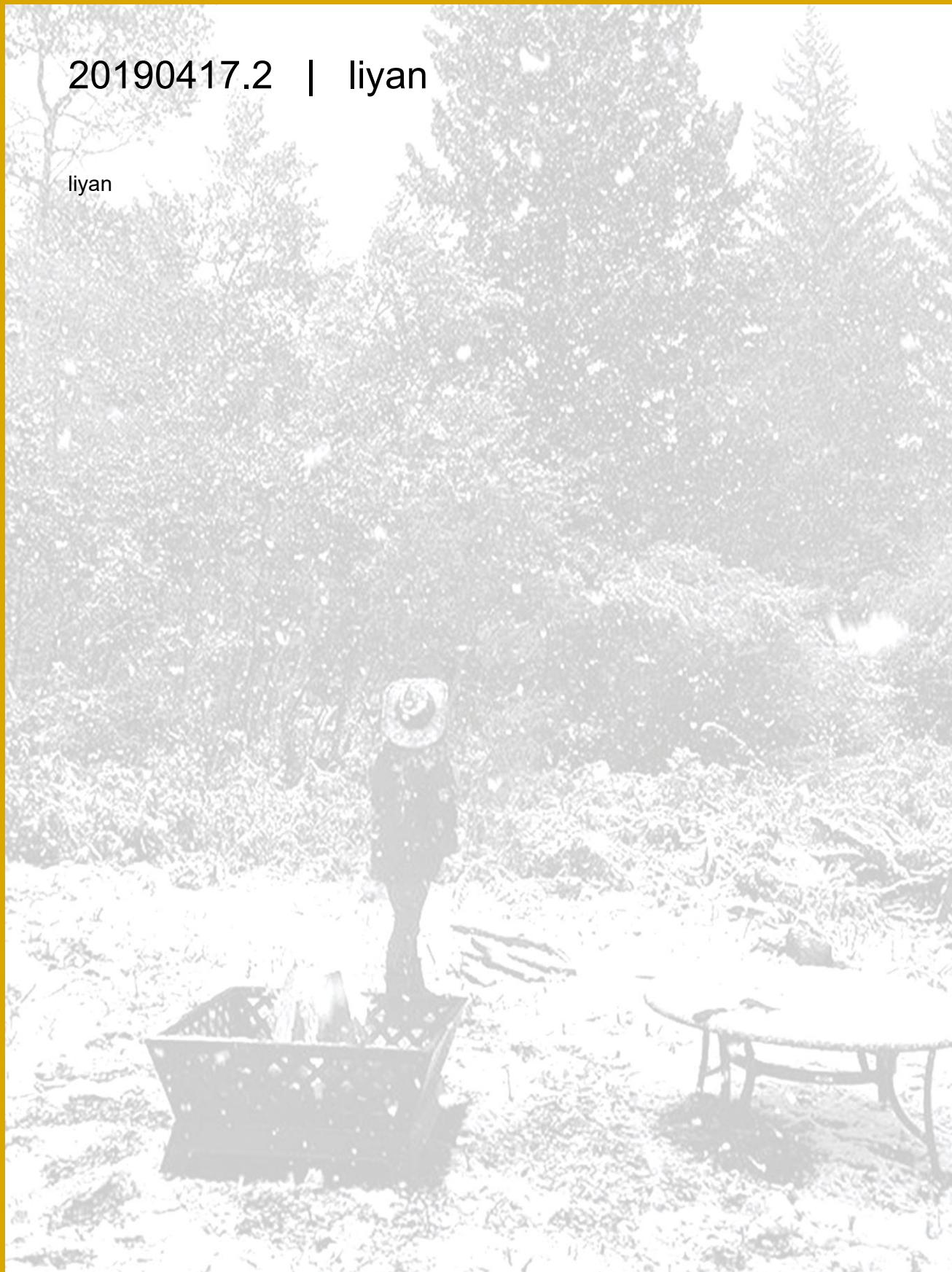
20190417.1 | true

true love  
is being together  
through change



20190417.2 | liyan

liyan



20190417.3 | slip

somehow

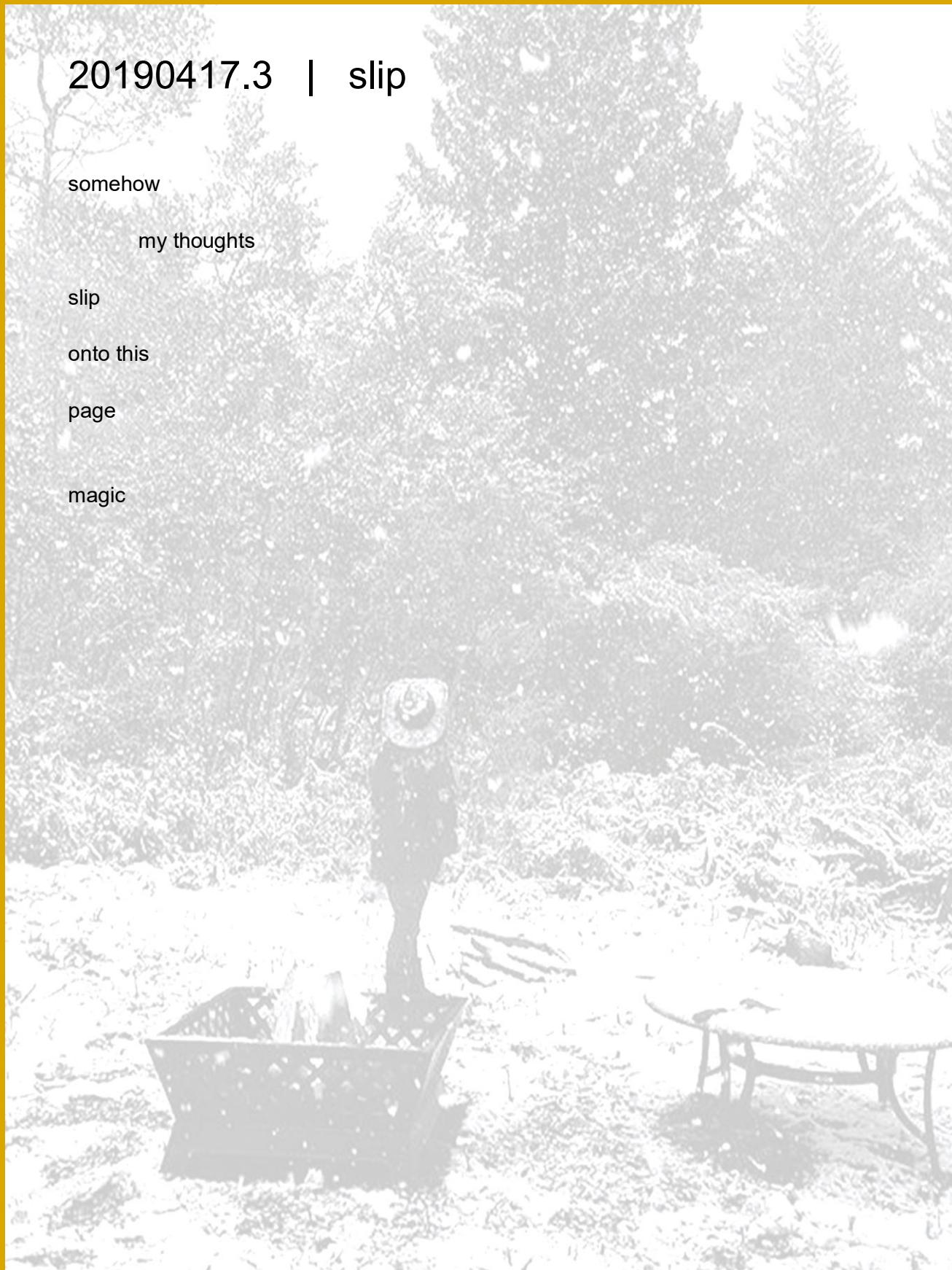
my thoughts

slip

onto this

page

magic



## 20190417.4 | pattern

.... | .... | ....

many great songs  
follow this pattern



20190418.1 | binary

love is binary

0

1

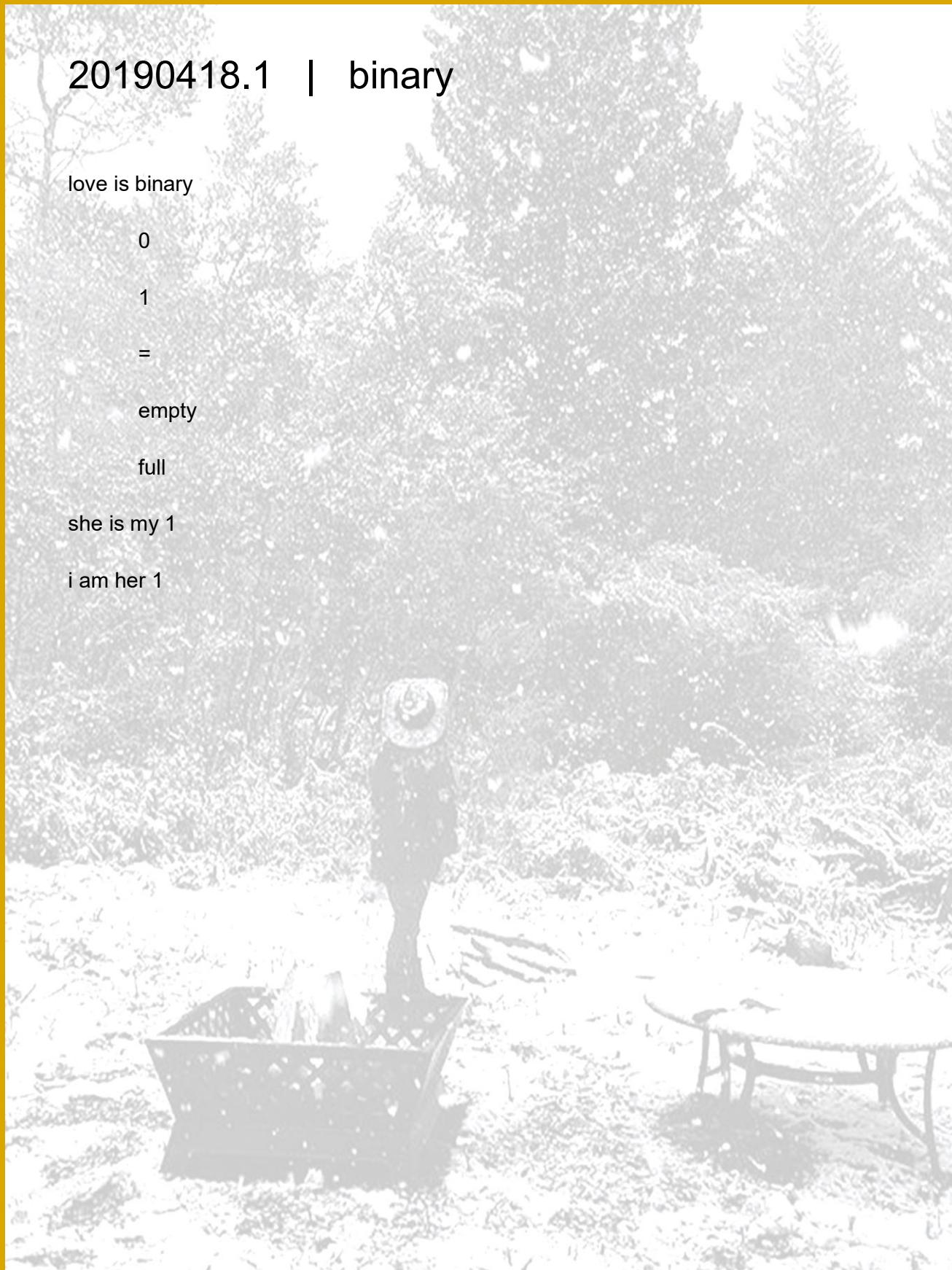
=

empty

full

she is my 1

i am her 1



20190418.2 | owned by

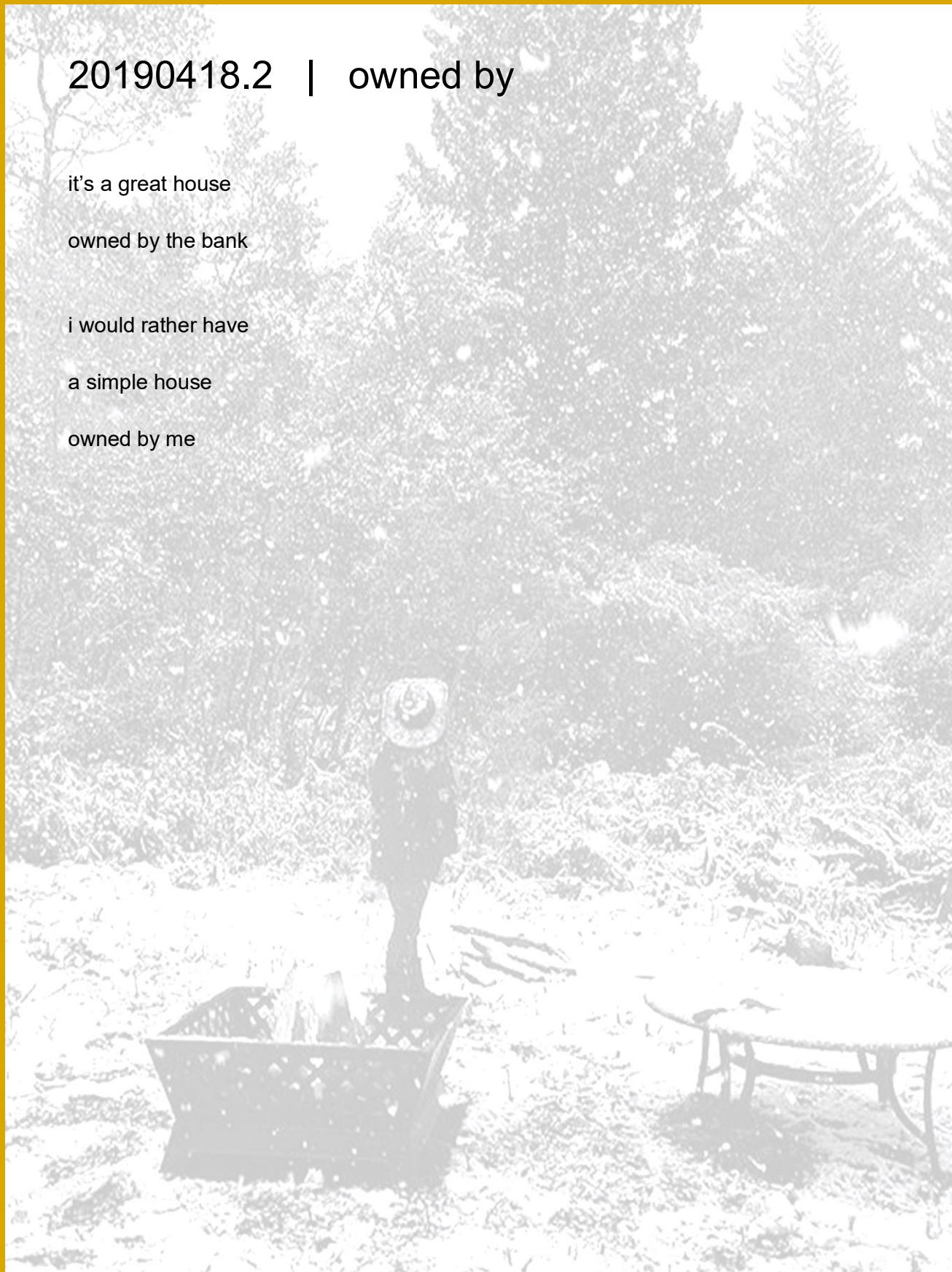
it's a great house

owned by the bank

i would rather have

a simple house

owned by me



20190418.3 | primed

believe

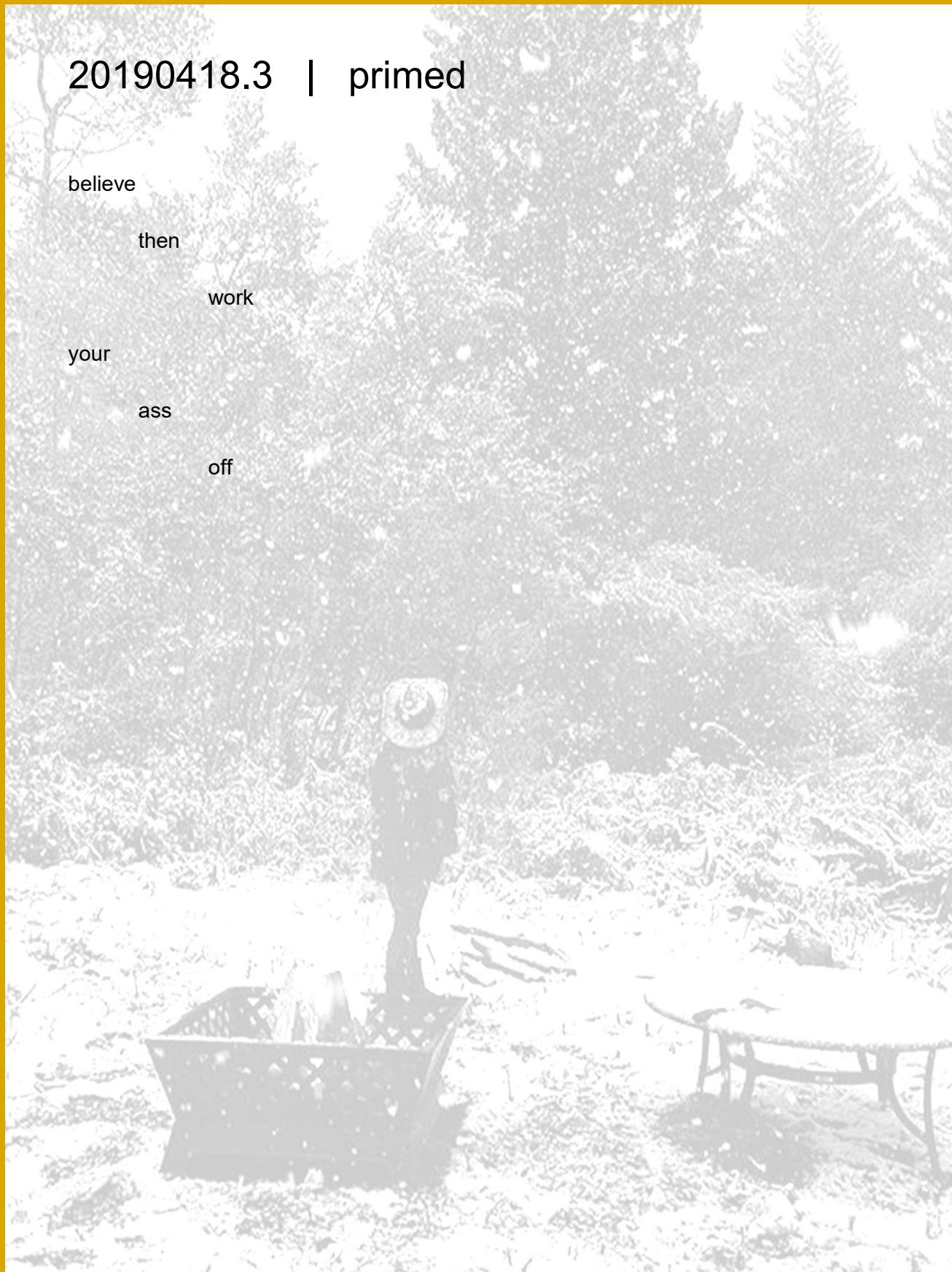
then

work

your

ass

off



## 20190418.4 | question the driver

we are all

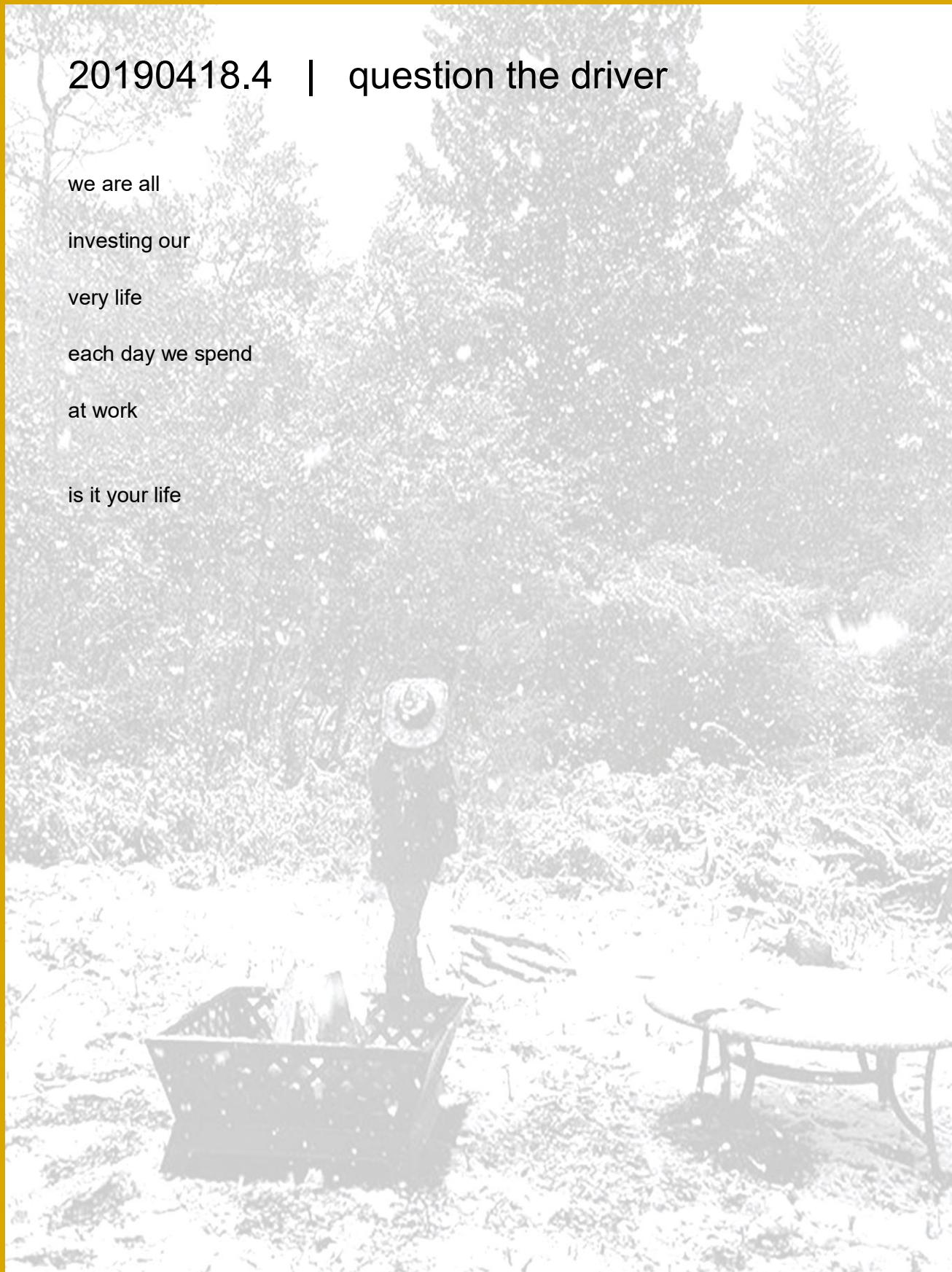
investing our

very life

each day we spend

at work

is it your life



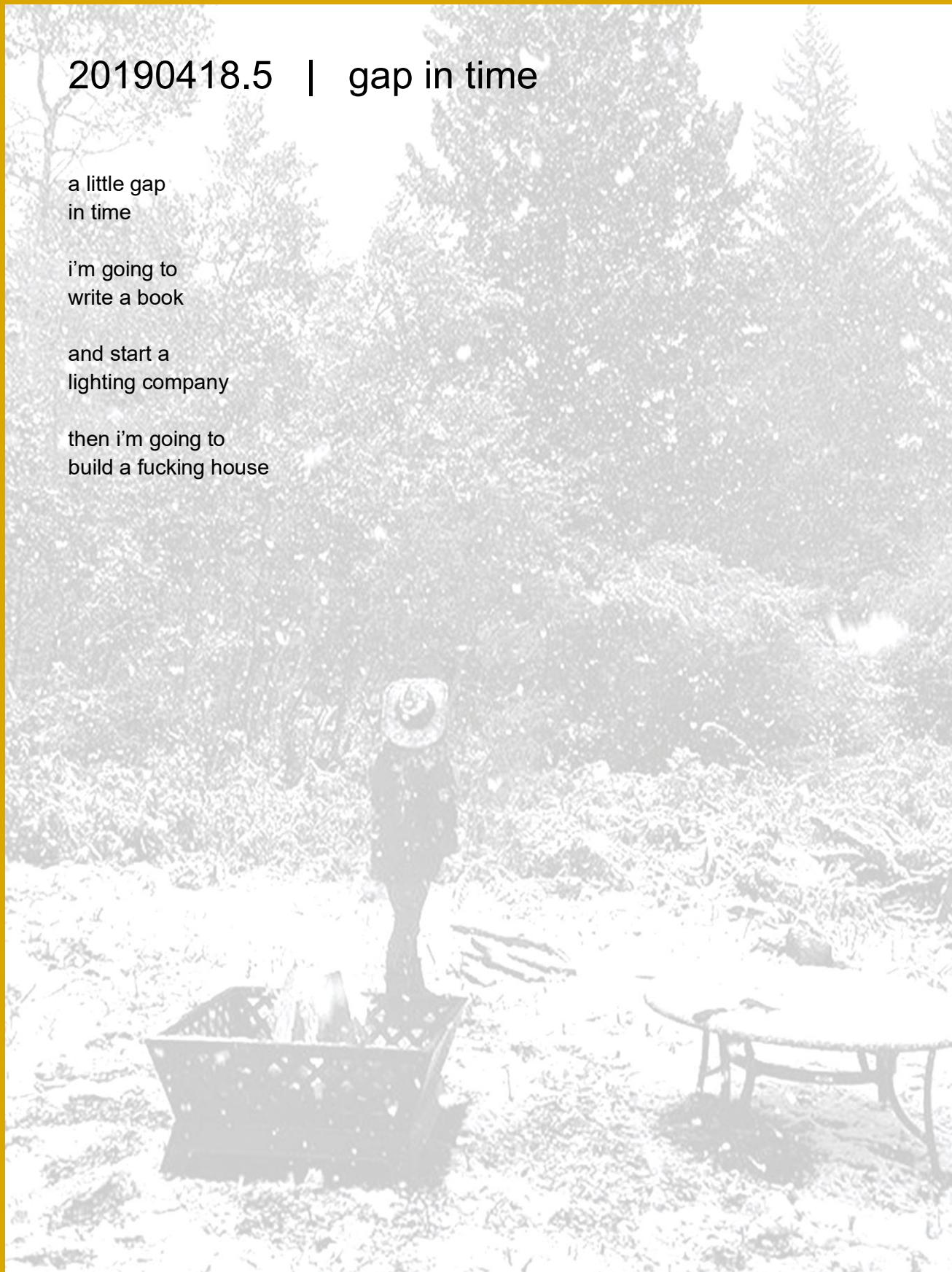
## 20190418.5 | gap in time

a little gap  
in time

i'm going to  
write a book

and start a  
lighting company

then i'm going to  
build a fucking house



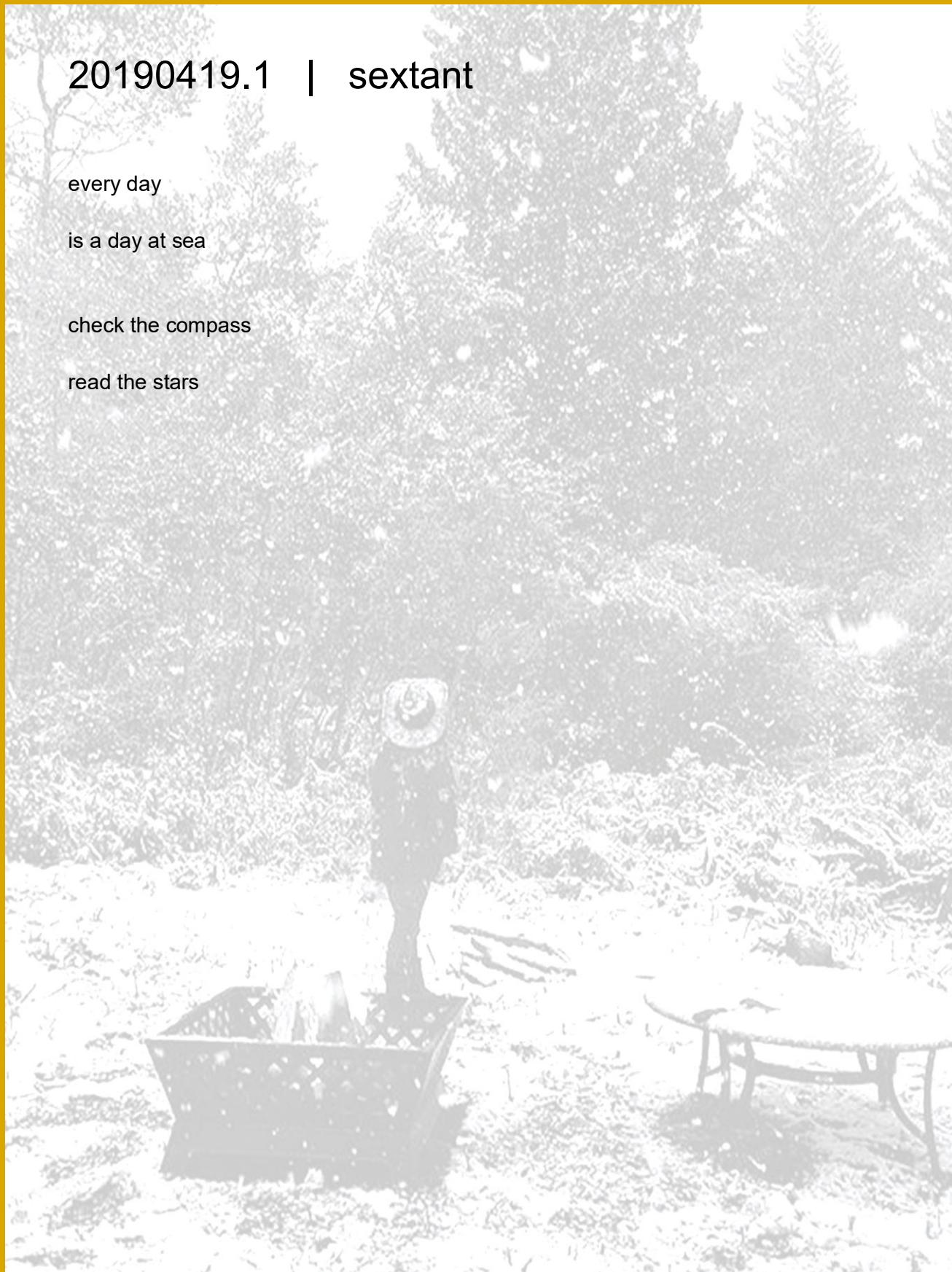
20190419.1 | sextant

every day

is a day at sea

check the compass

read the stars

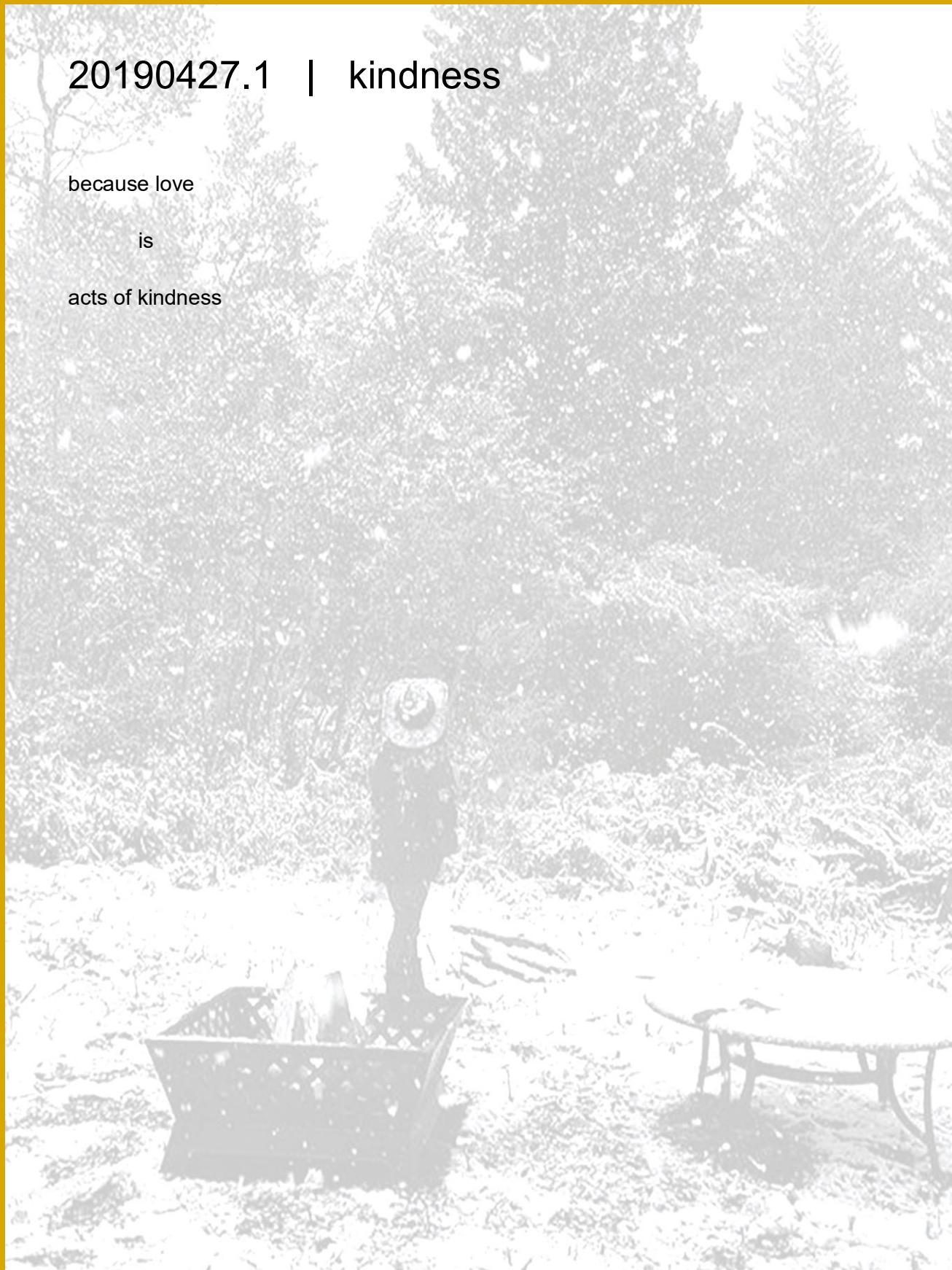


## 20190427.1 | kindness

because love

is

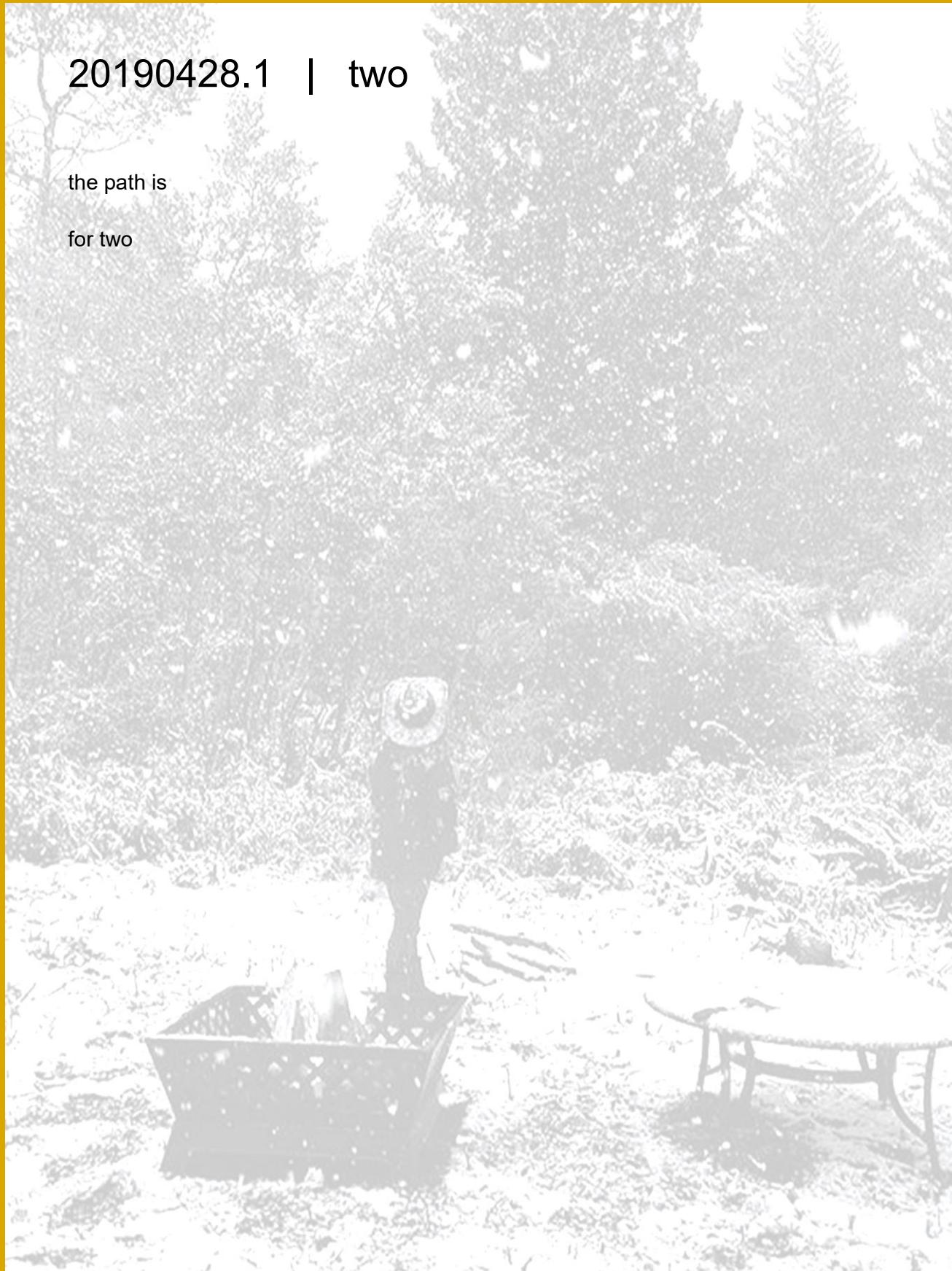
acts of kindness



20190428.1 | two

the path is

for two



## 20190428.2 | chinese queen

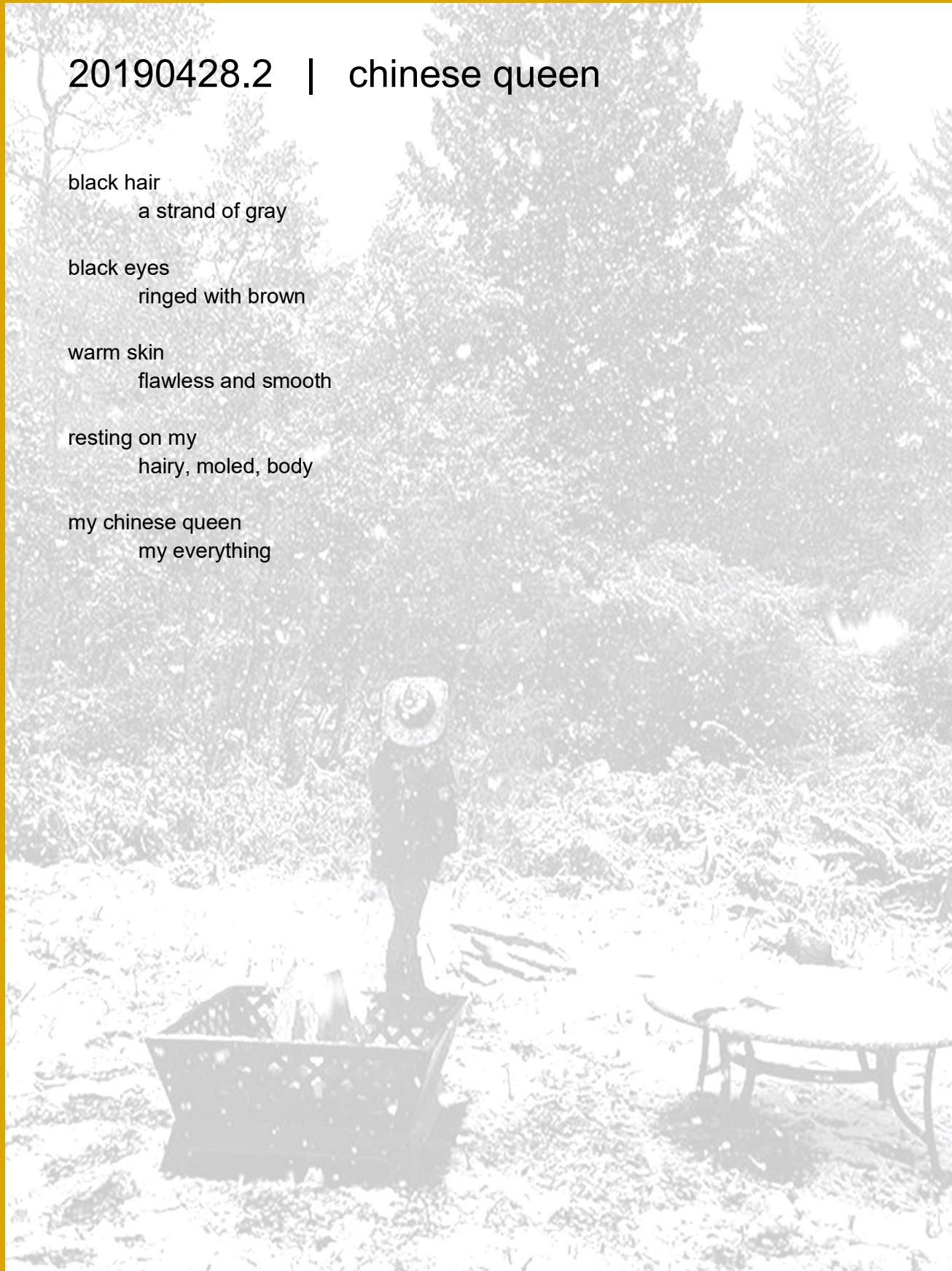
black hair  
a strand of gray

black eyes  
ringed with brown

warm skin  
flawless and smooth

resting on my  
hairy, moled, body

my chinese queen  
my everything



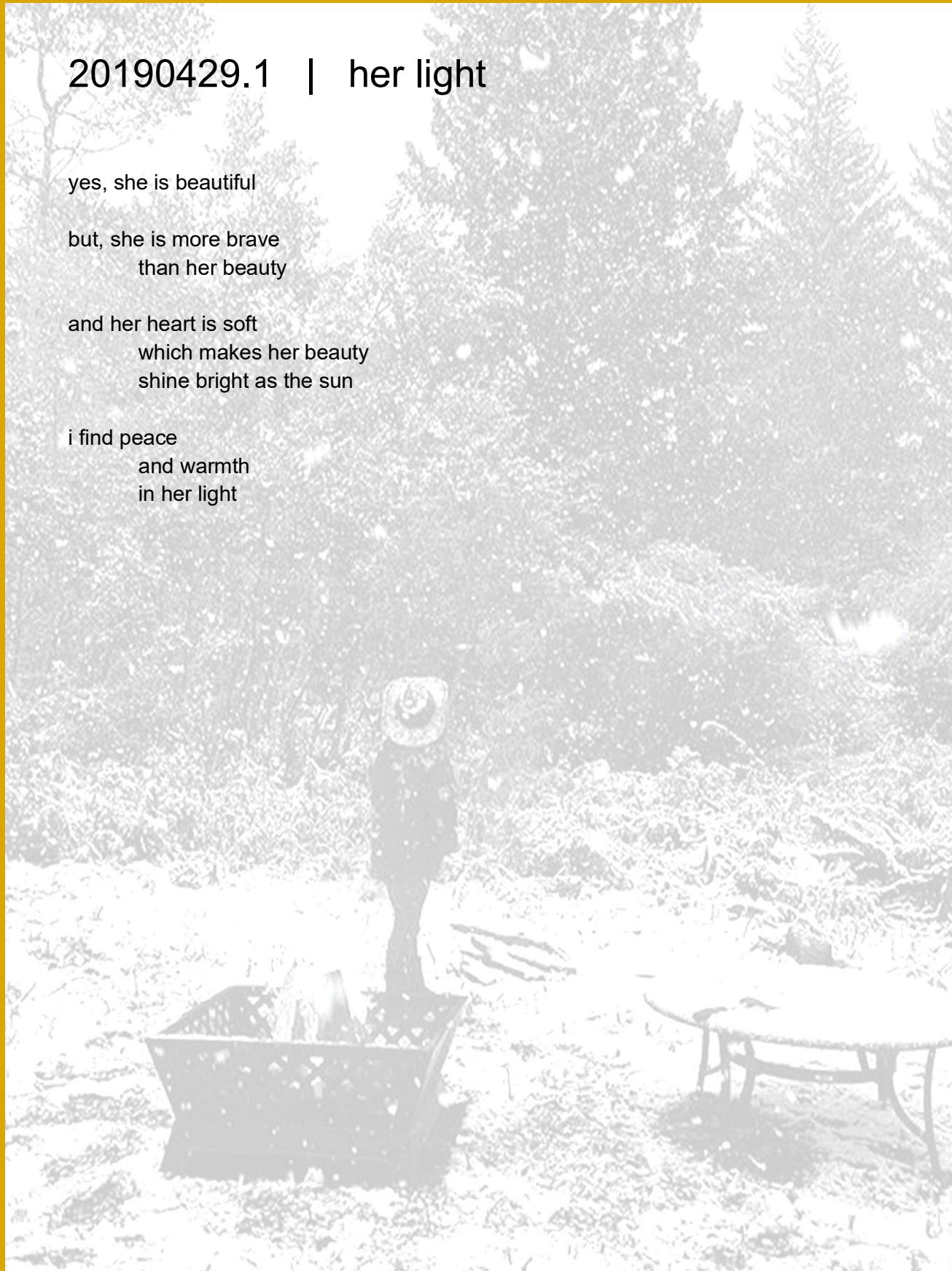
## 20190429.1 | her light

yes, she is beautiful

but, she is more brave  
than her beauty

and her heart is soft  
which makes her beauty  
shine bright as the sun

i find peace  
and warmth  
in her light



20190430.1 | free

today i belonged

to no one

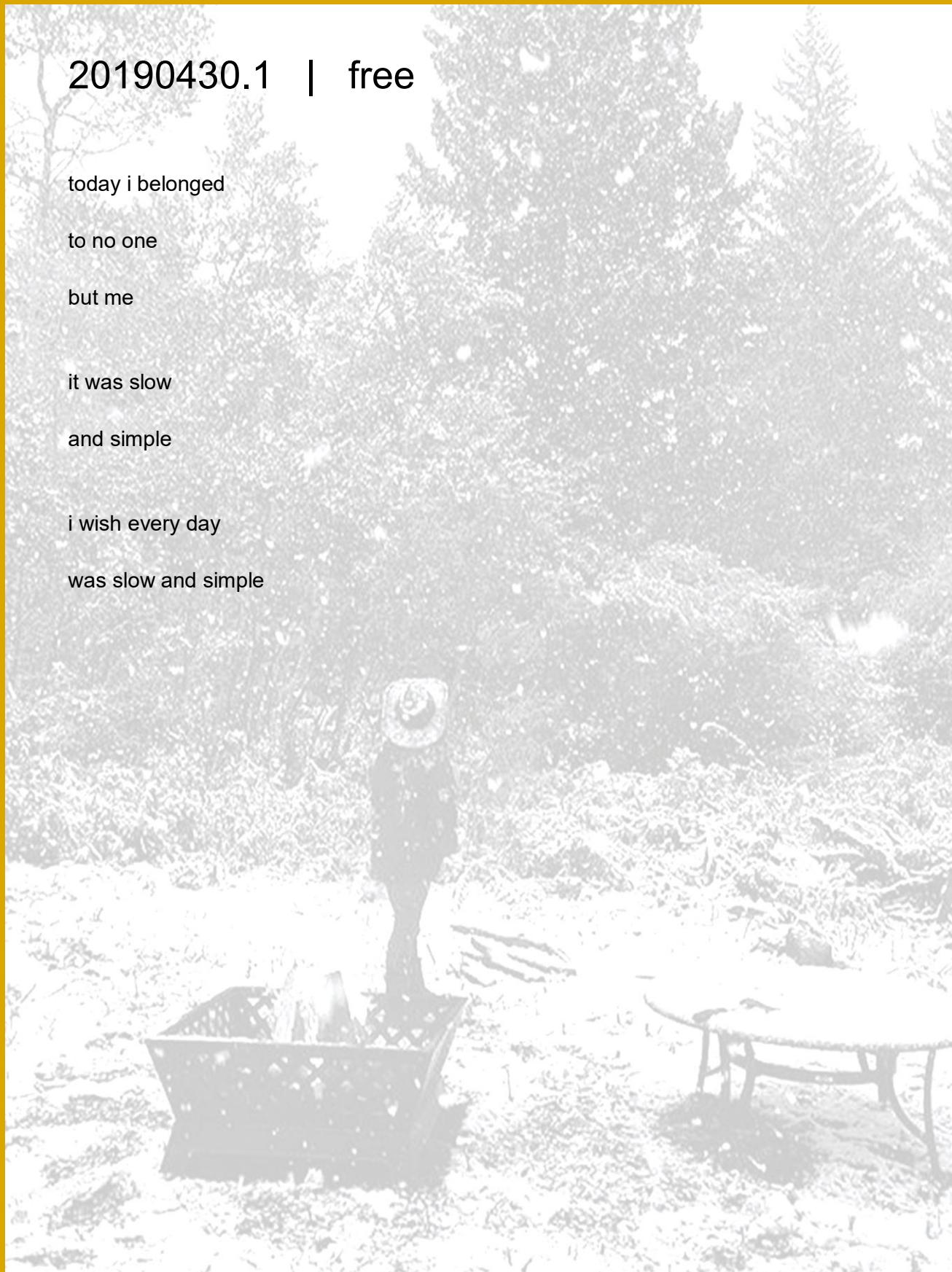
but me

it was slow

and simple

i wish every day

was slow and simple



20190508.1 | wish i

i wish

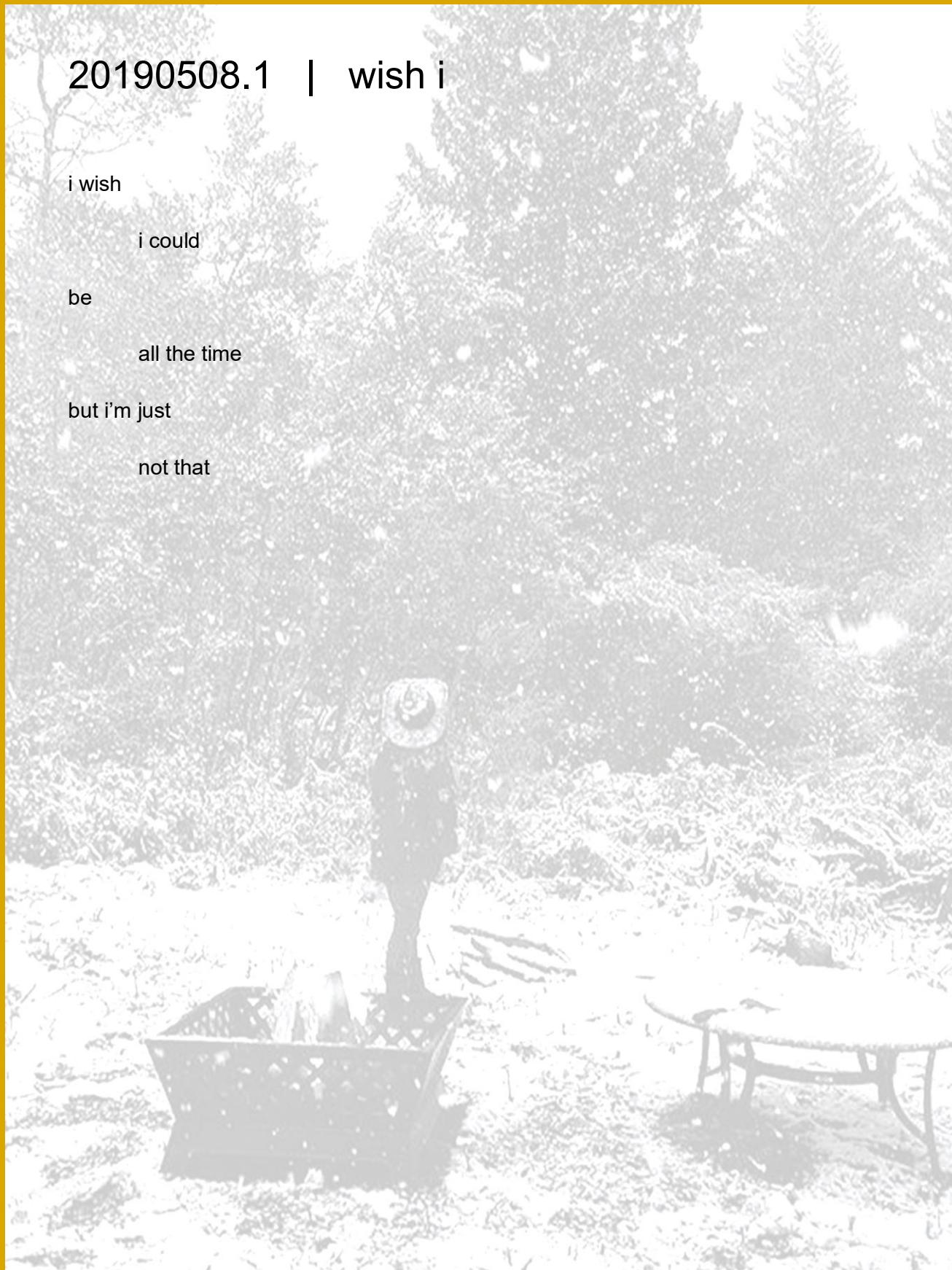
i could

be

all the time

but i'm just

not that



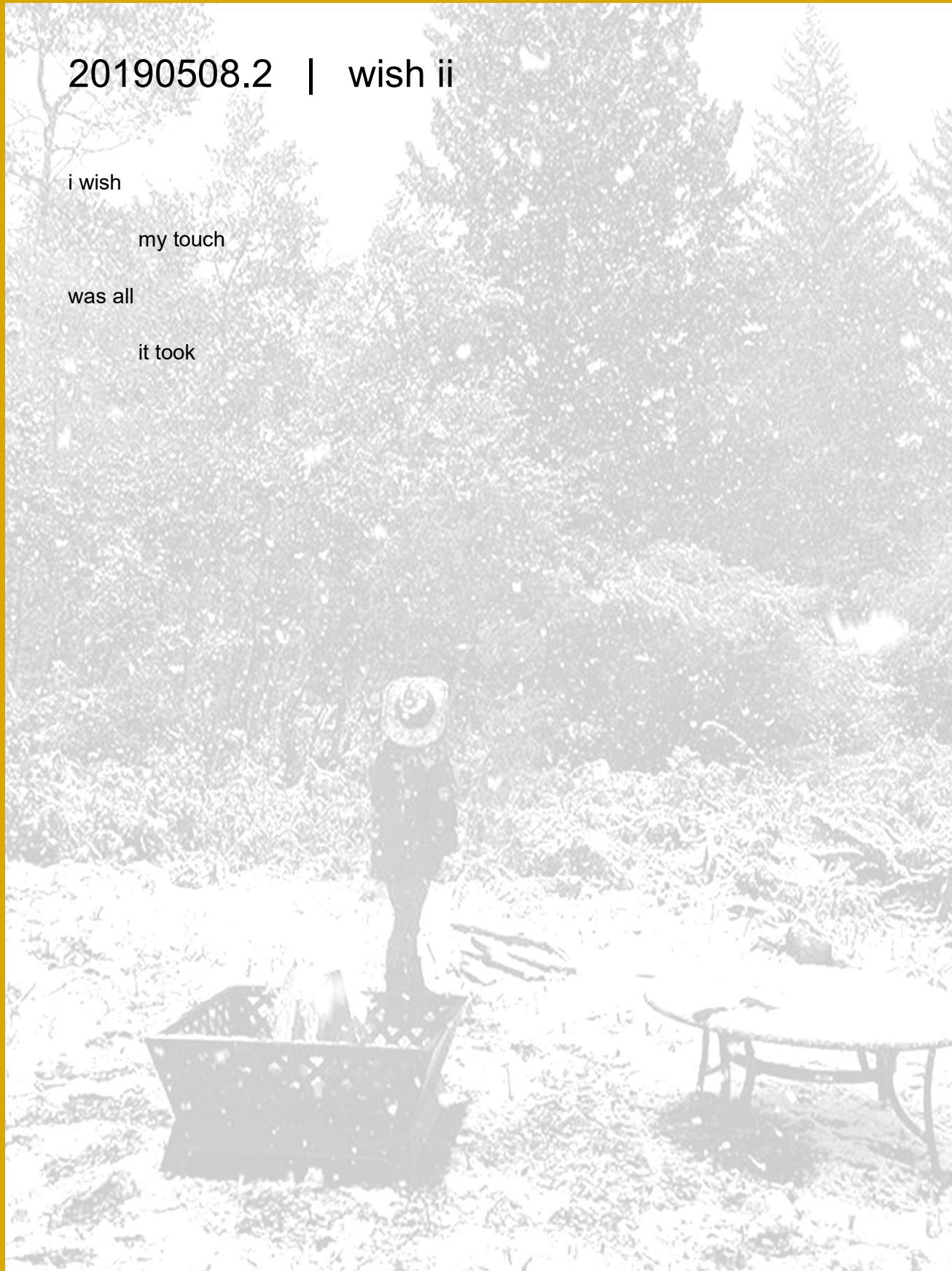
20190508.2 | wish ii

i wish

my touch

was all

it took



20190508.3 | wish iii

i wish

my words

would emerge

from this book



## 20190508.4 | wish iv

i wish

perfect love

was more

than a moment

in time

more than

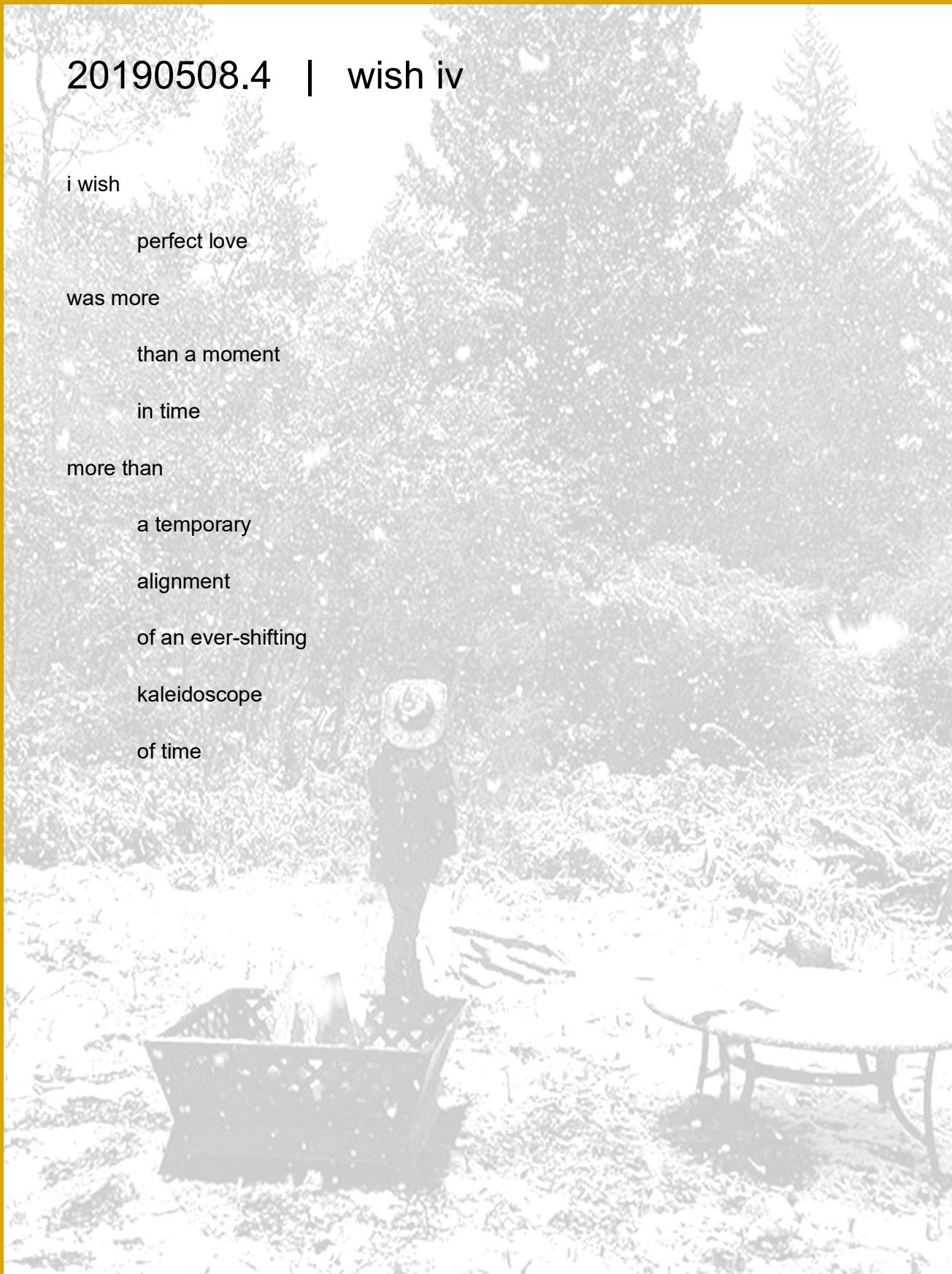
a temporary

alignment

of an ever-shifting

kaleidoscope

of time



20190508.5 | wish v

i wish

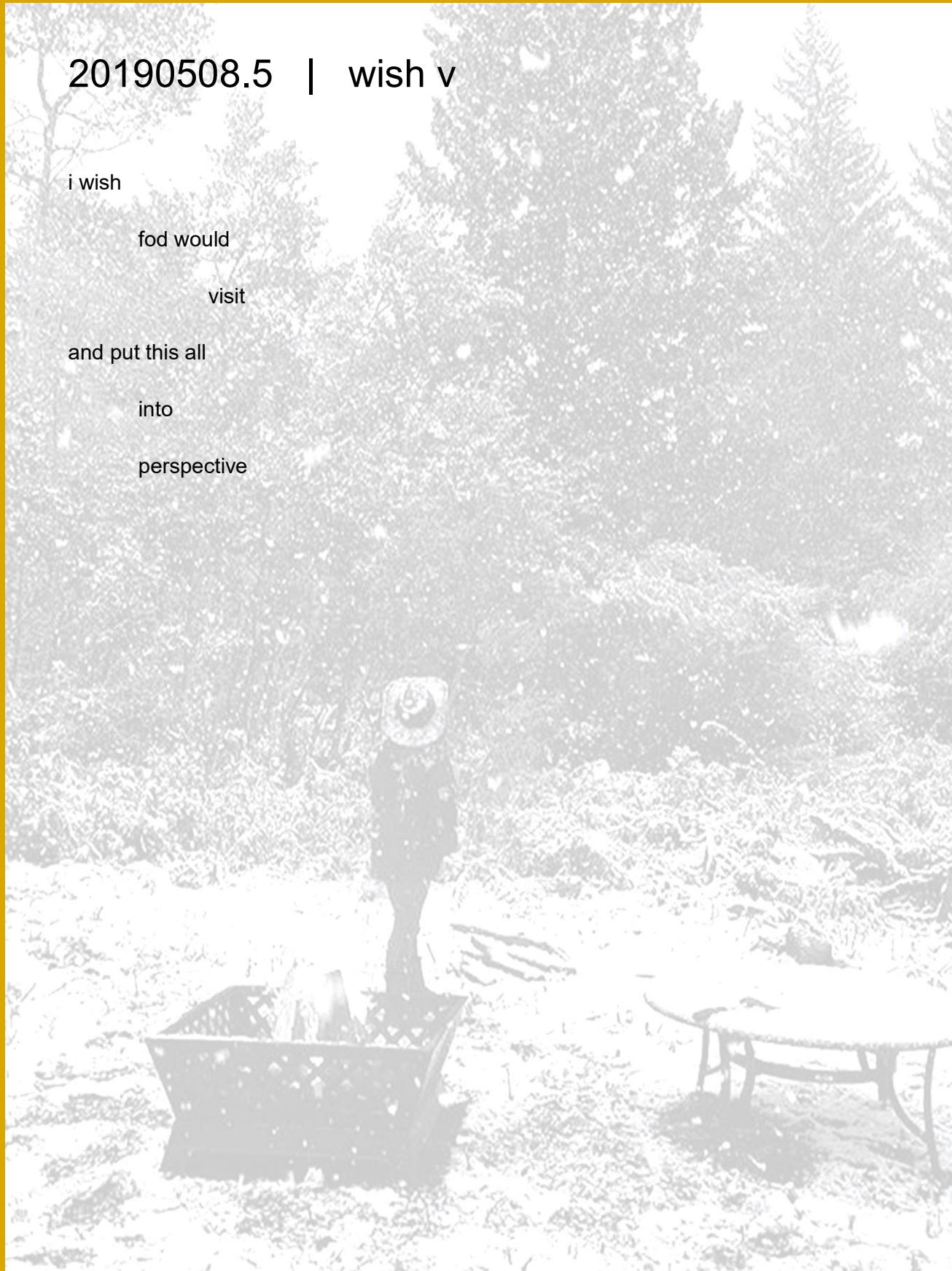
fod would

visit

and put this all

into

perspective



20190508.6 | wish vi

i wish

i had become

more

by this age

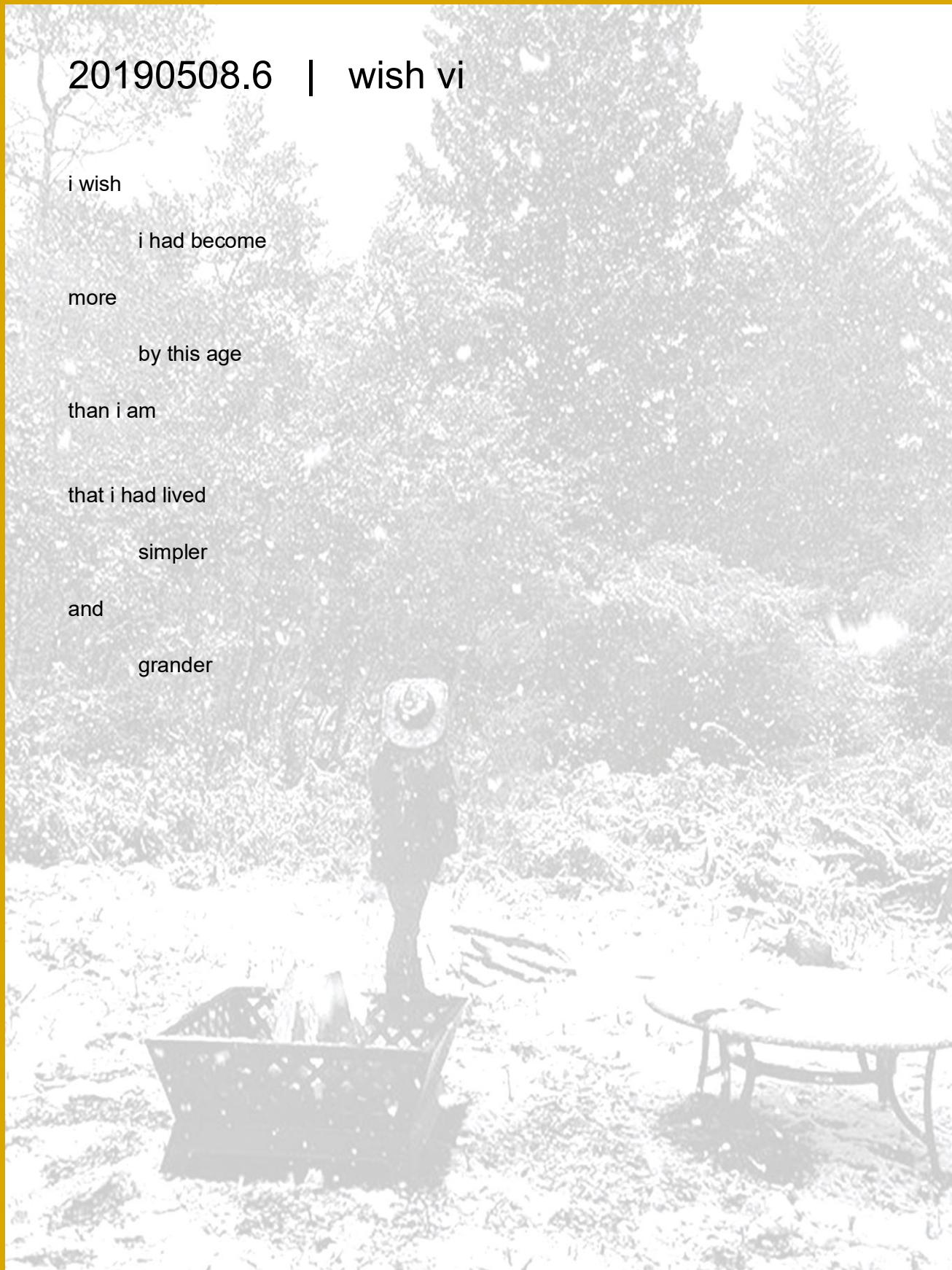
than i am

that i had lived

simpler

and

grander



20190508.7 | wish vii

i wish

my dream

comes true

a life

lived simple

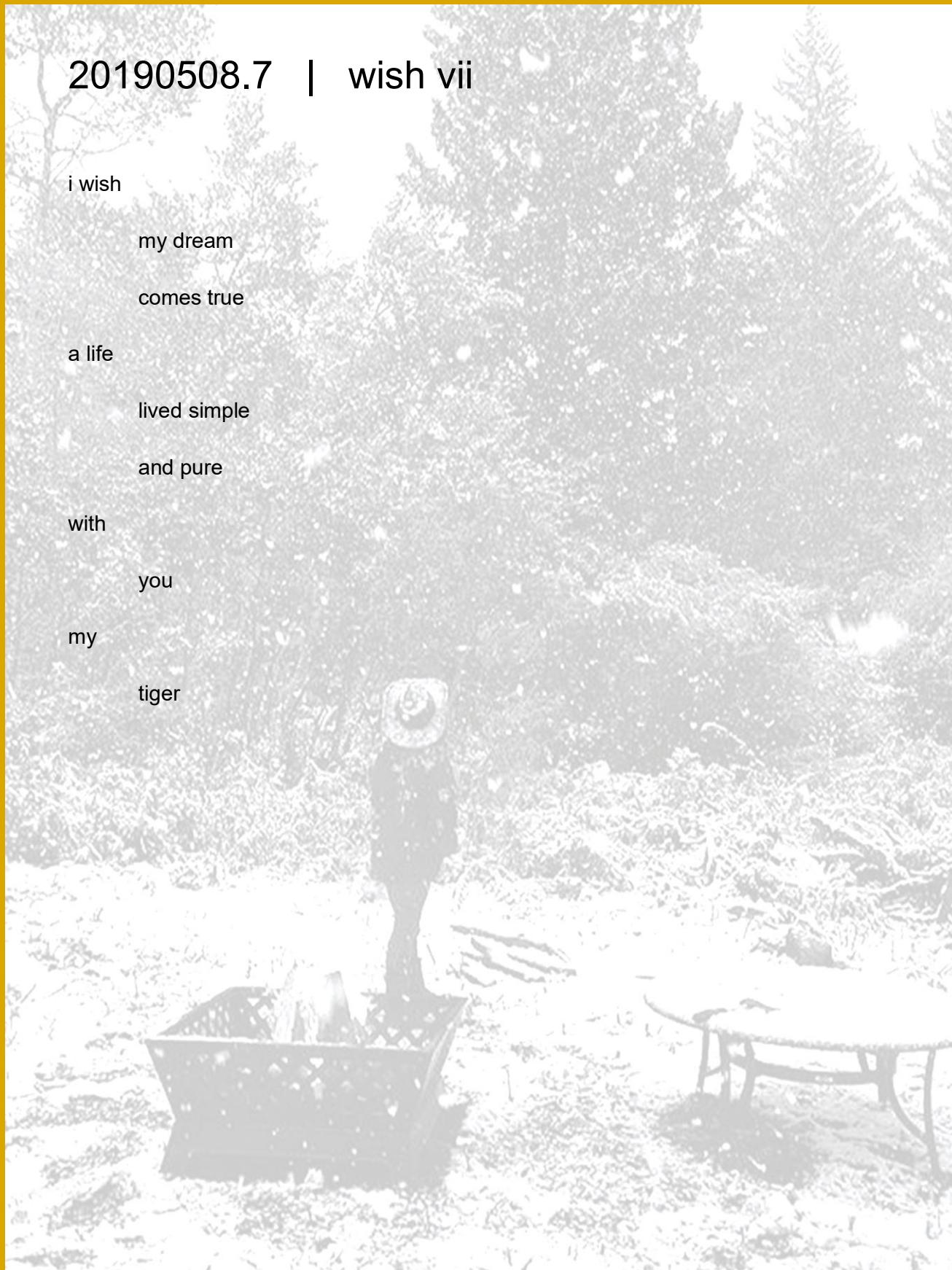
and pure

with

you

my

tiger



## 20190508.8 | wish viii

i wish

sleep were a switch

i could

flip with a

thought

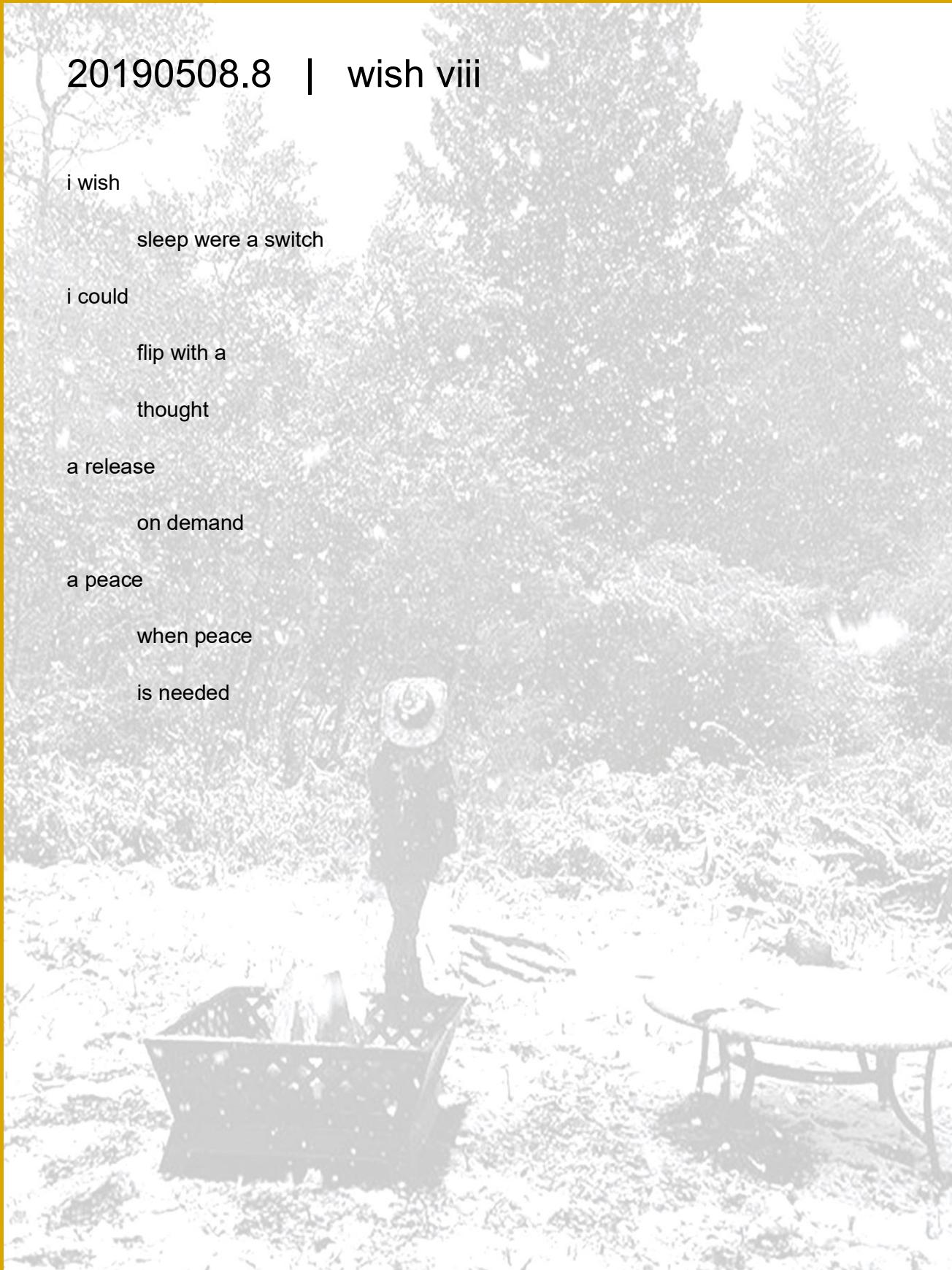
a release

on demand

a peace

when peace

is needed



## 20190508.9 | wish ix

i wish

i could be

all you need

all the time

but i'm not

all i need

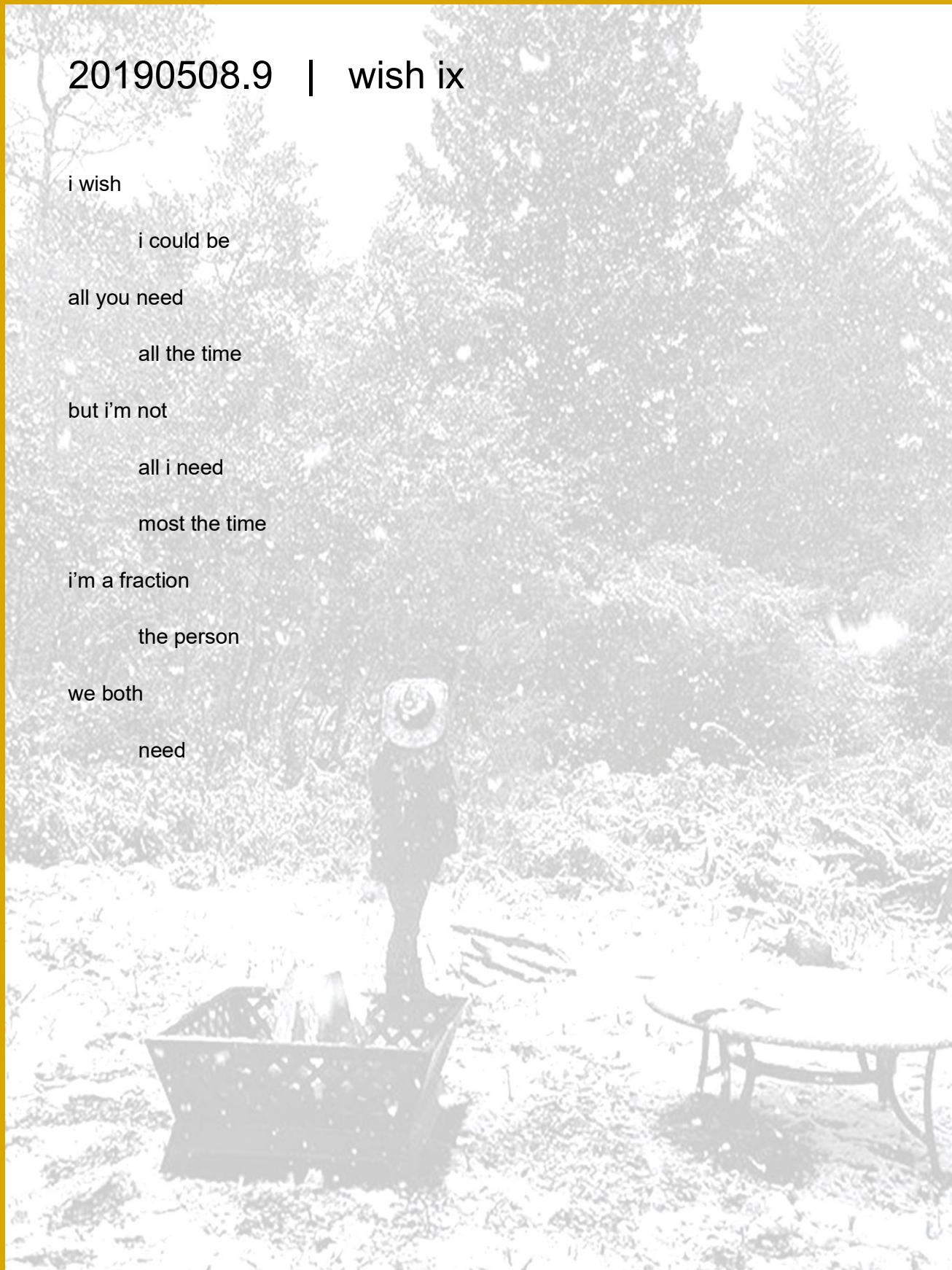
most the time

i'm a fraction

the person

we both

need



20190508.10 | wish x

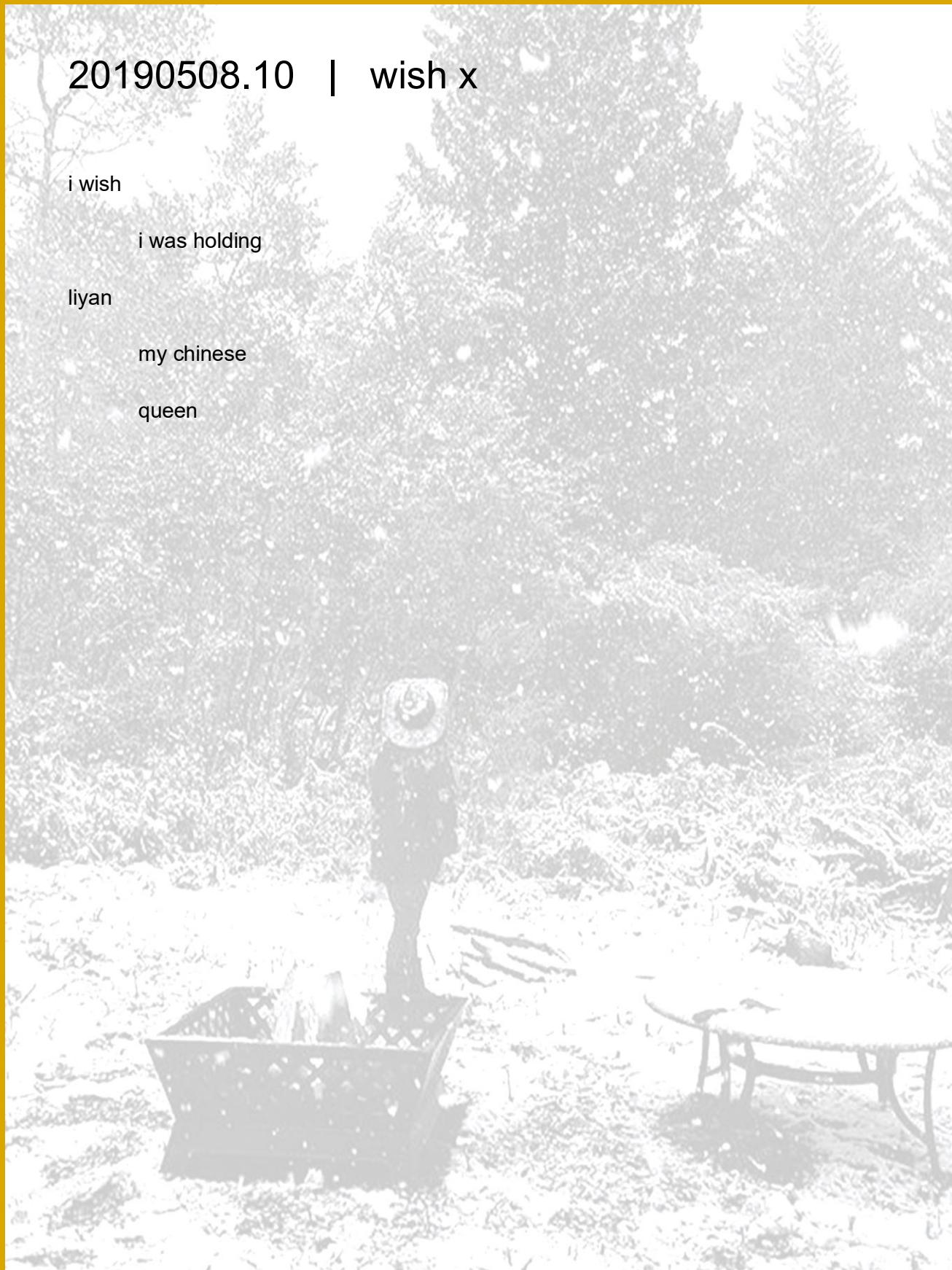
i wish

i was holding

liyan

my chinese

queen



20190508.11 | wish xi

i wish

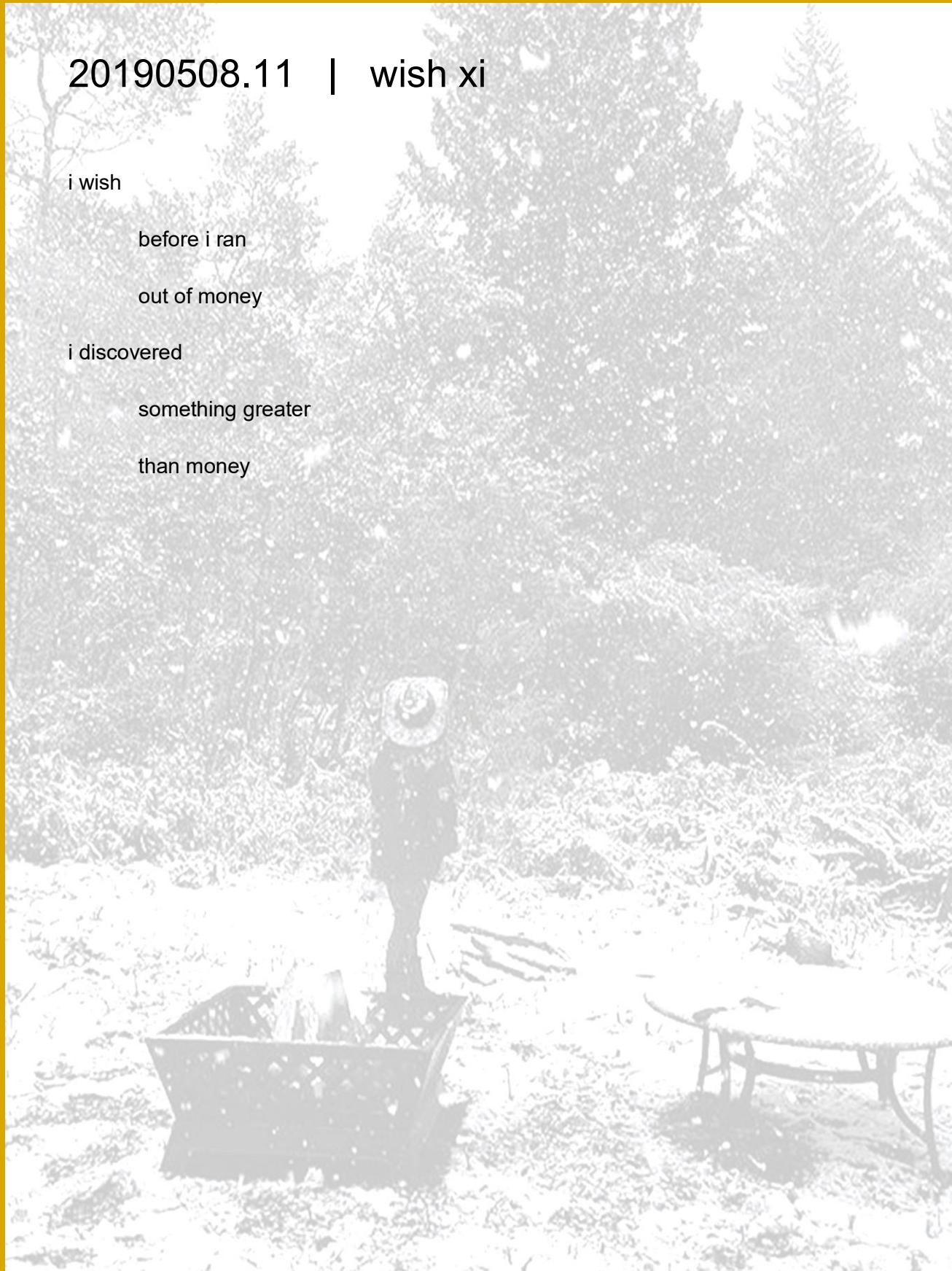
before i ran

out of money

i discovered

something greater

than money



20190508.12 | wish xii

i wish

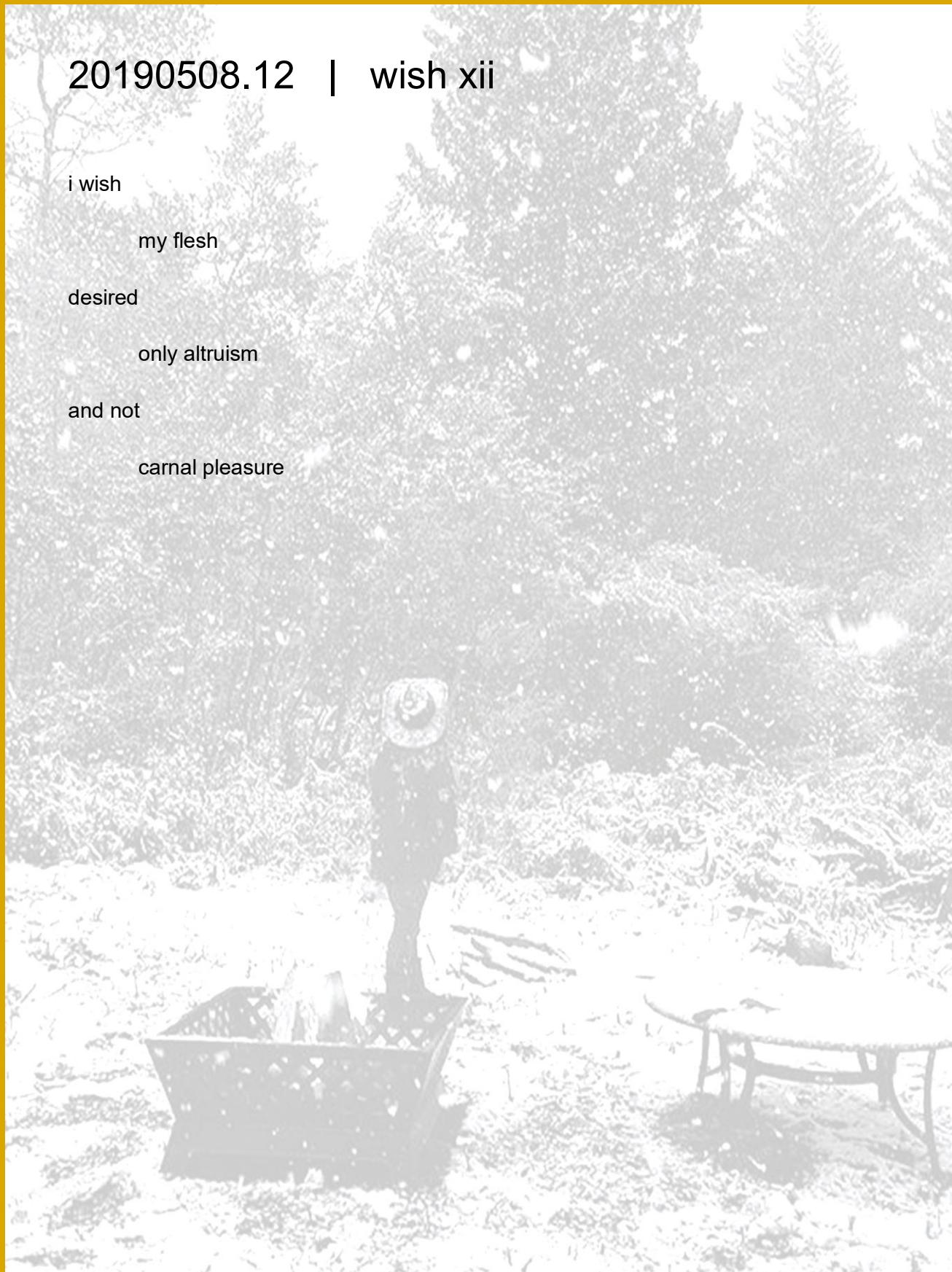
my flesh

desired

only altruism

and not

carnal pleasure



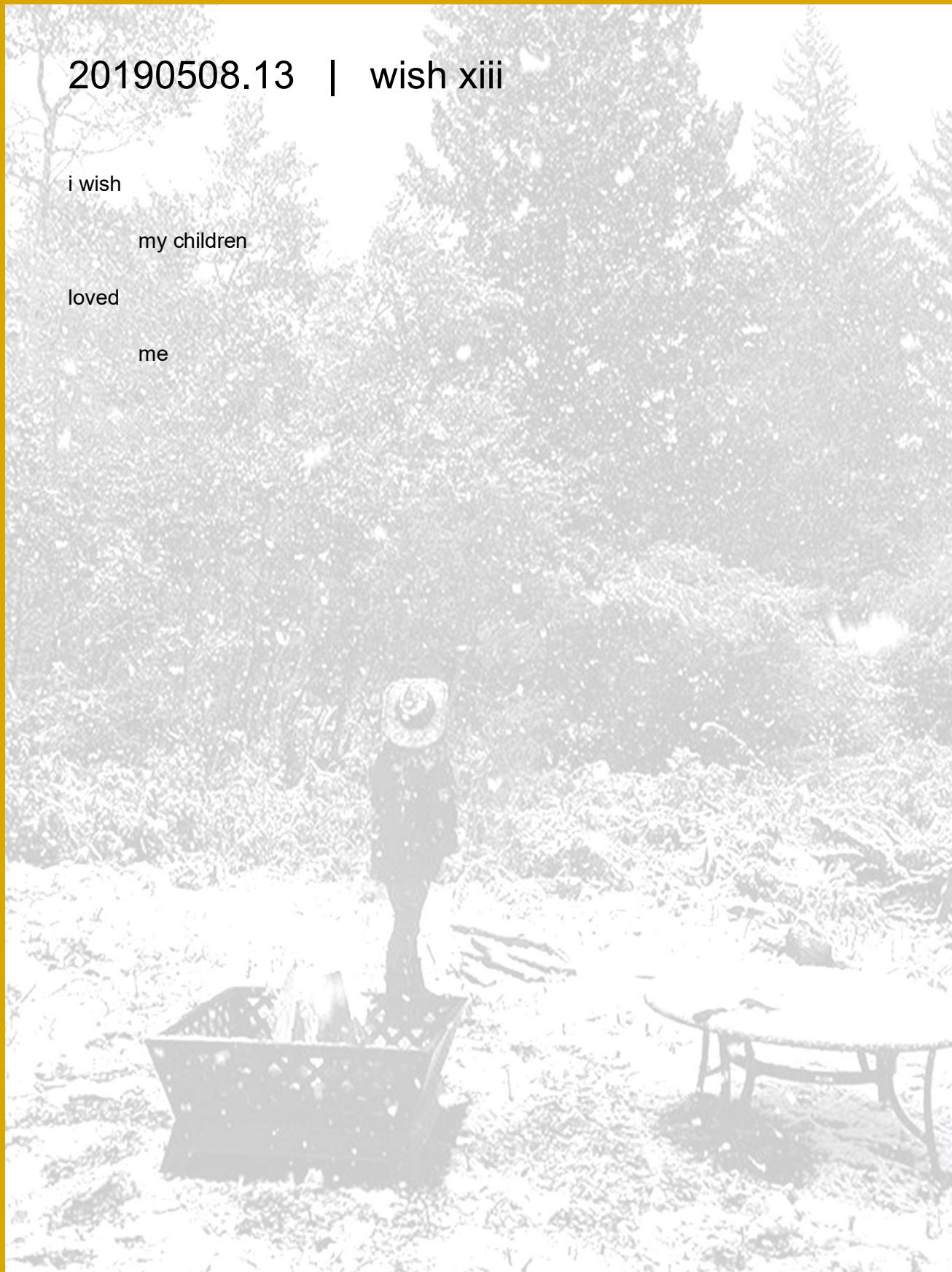
20190508.13 | wish xiii

i wish

my children

loved

me



20190508.14 | wish xiv

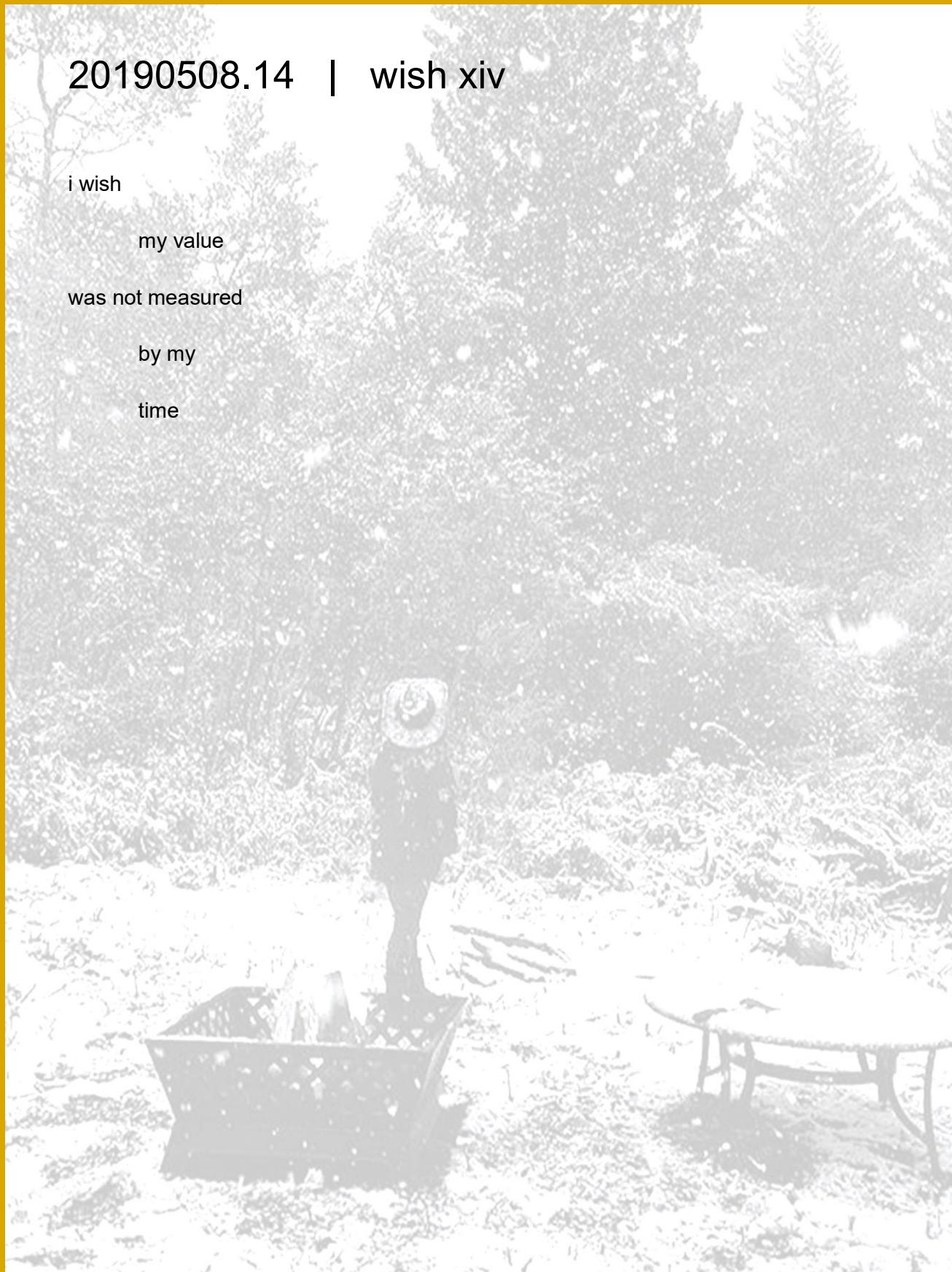
i wish

my value

was not measured

by my

time



20190508.15 | wish xv

i wish

i could solve

all her needs

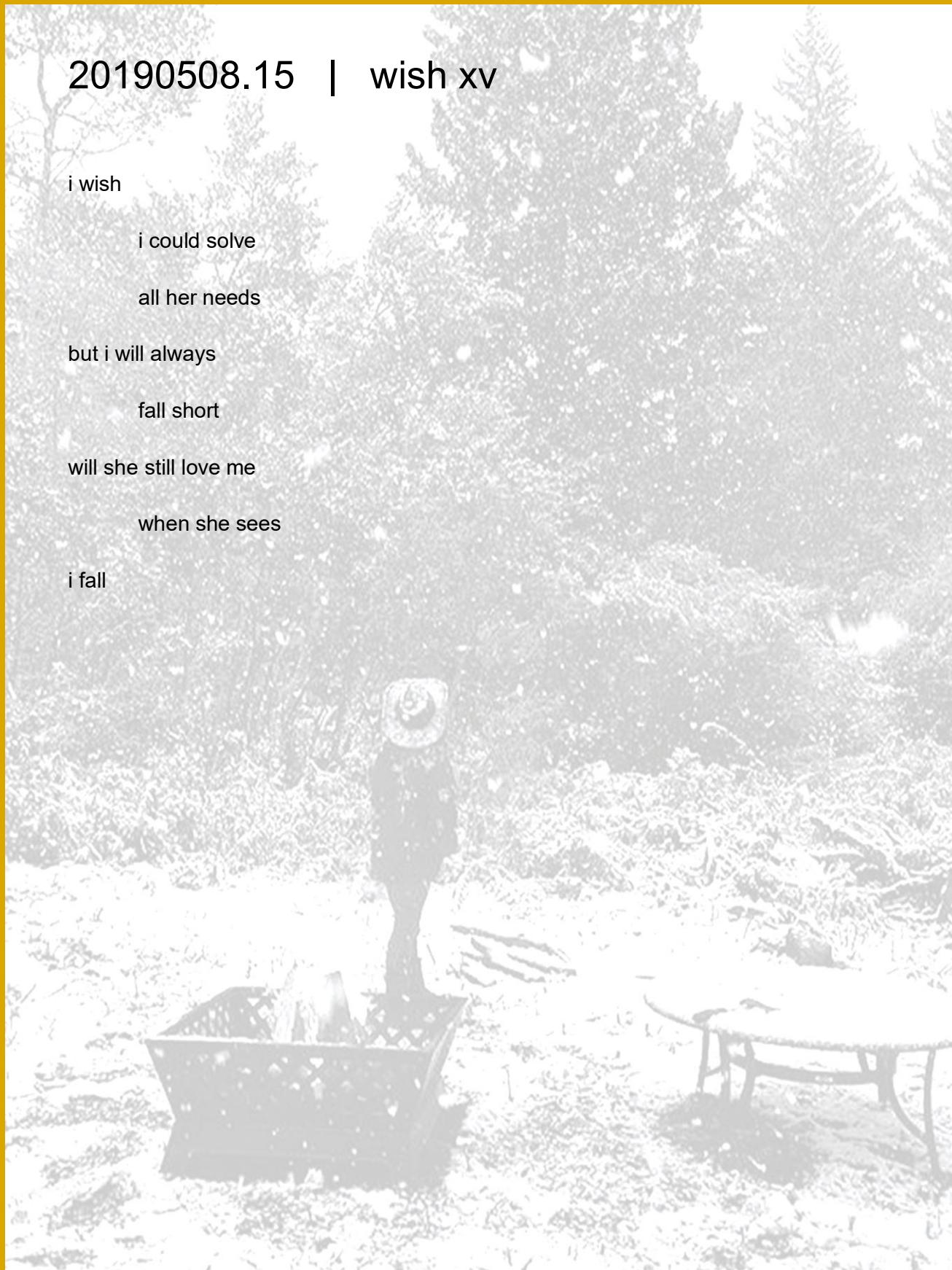
but i will always

fall short

will she still love me

when she sees

i fall

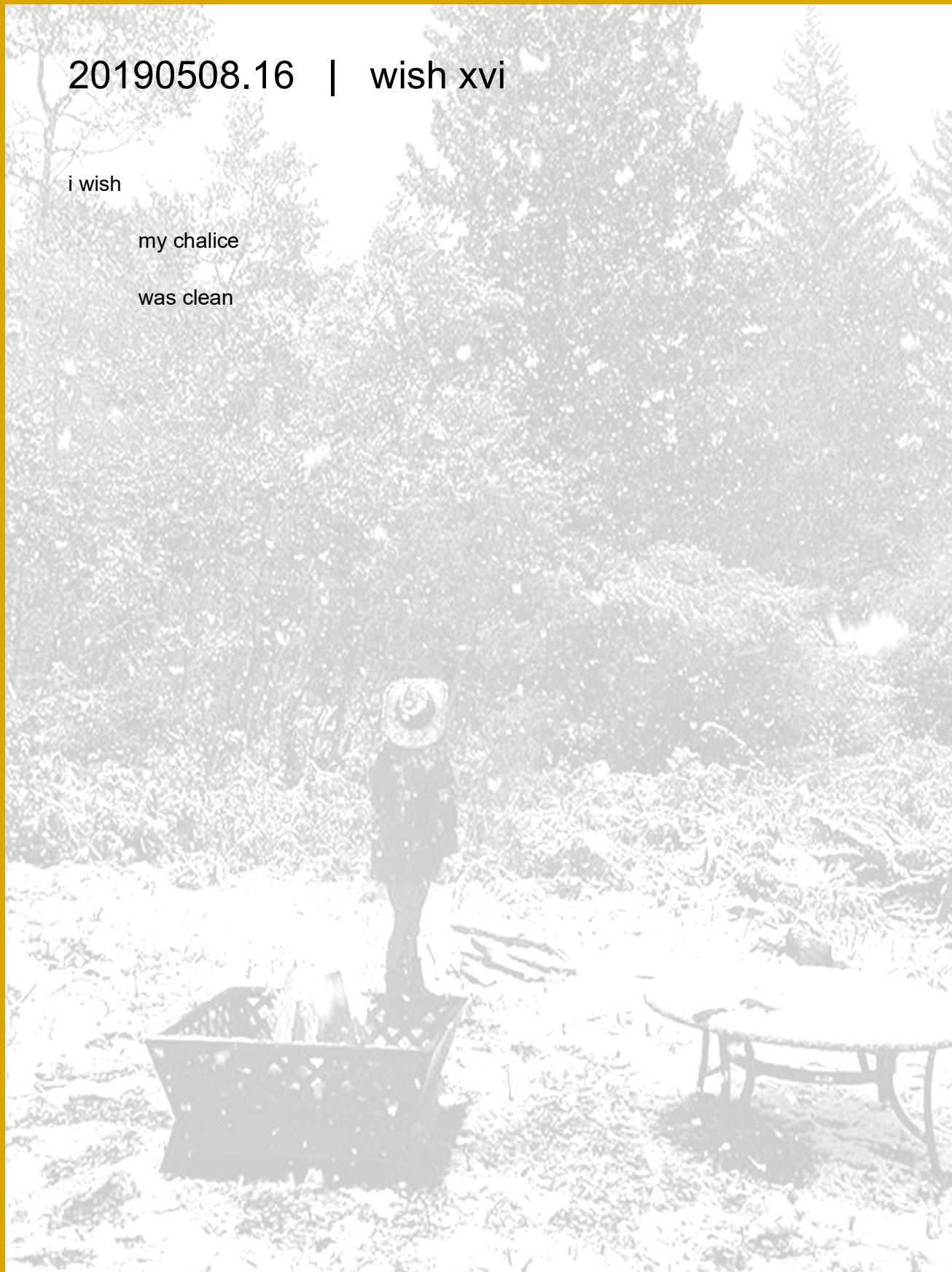


20190508.16 | wish xvi

i wish

my chalice

was clean



20190508.17 | wish xvii

i wish

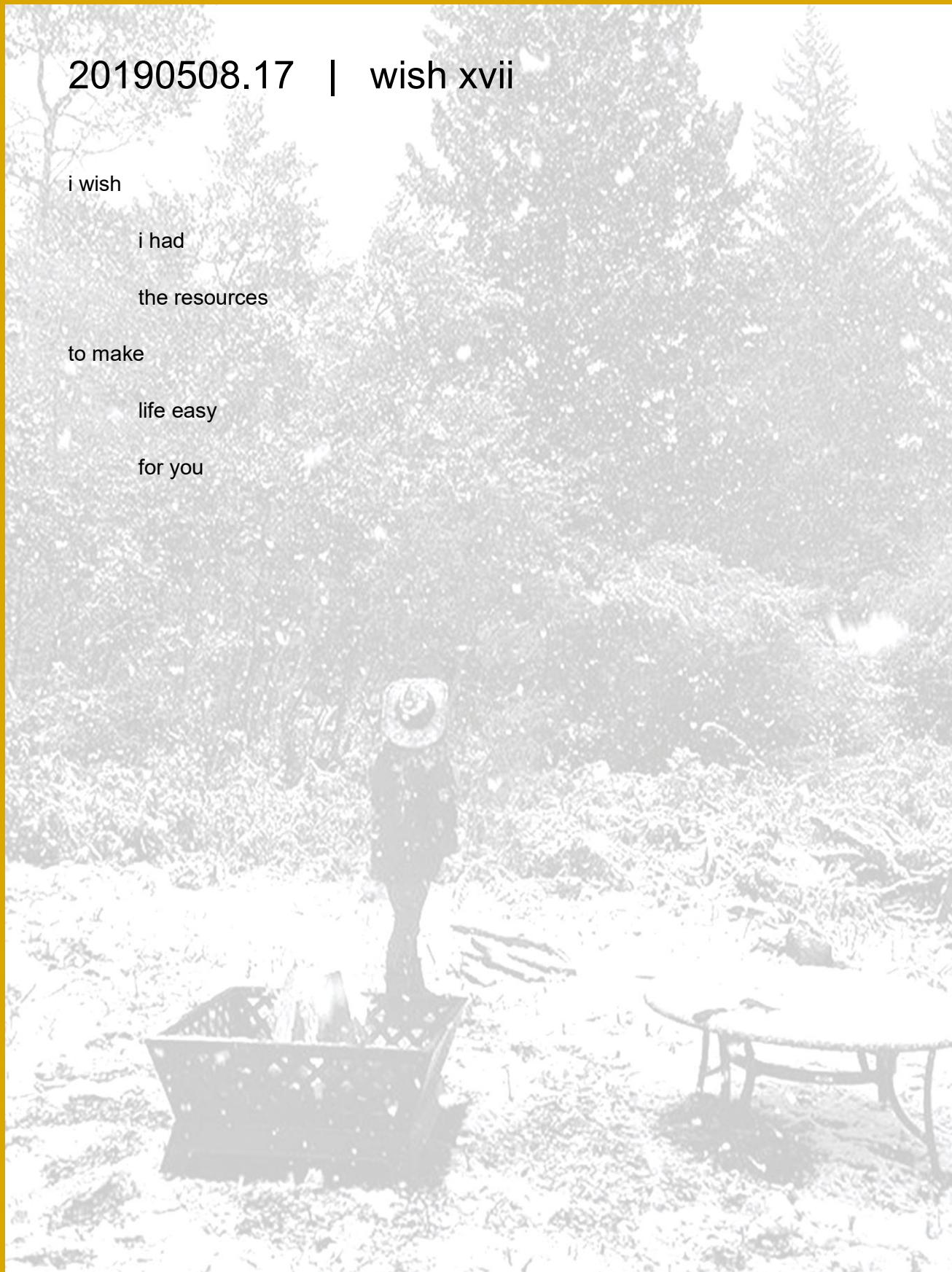
i had

the resources

to make

life easy

for you



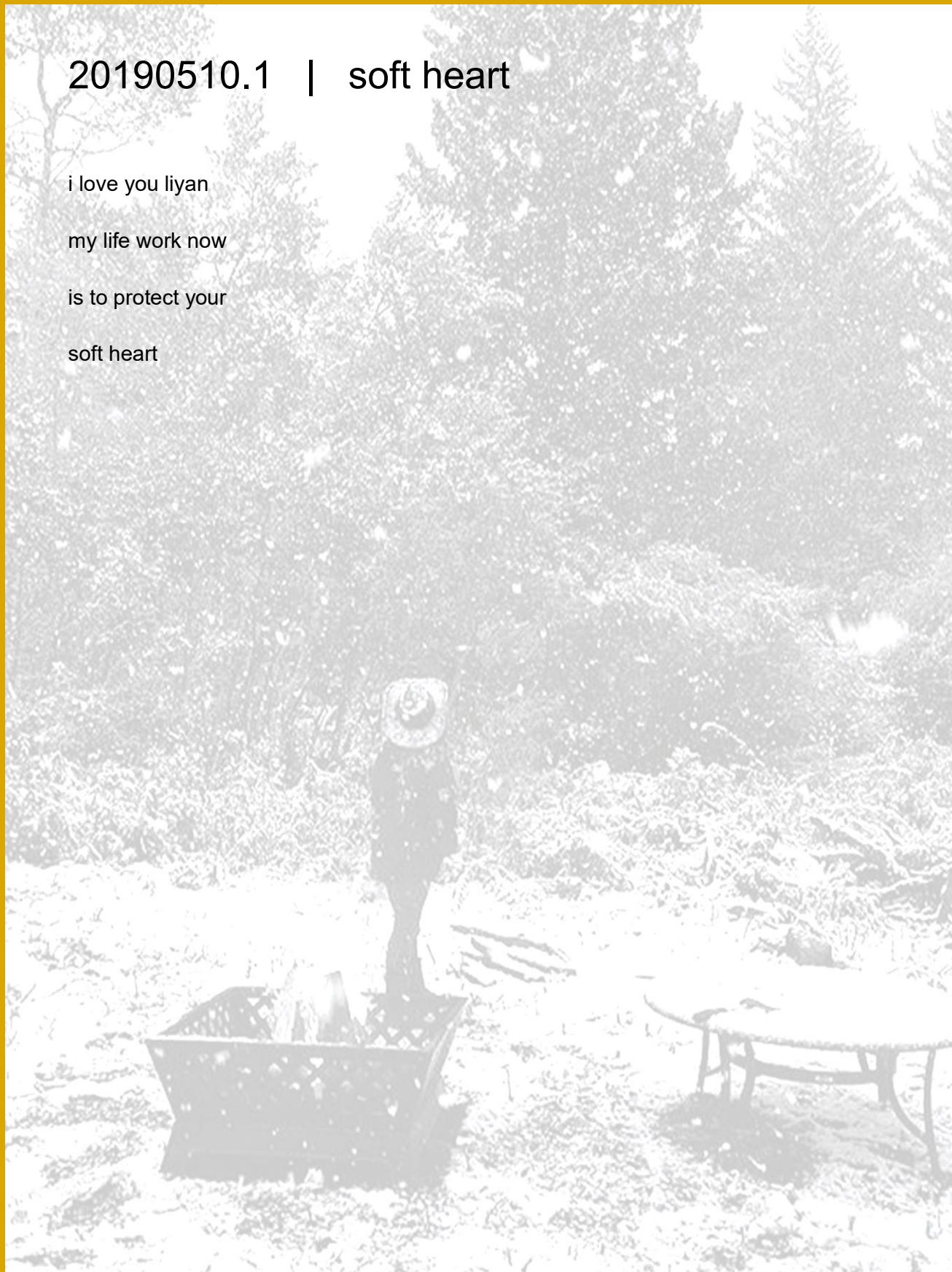
20190510.1 | soft heart

i love you liyan

my life work now

is to protect your

soft heart



## 20190720.1 | paper-thin

i'm broken

i'm lost

i'm in a play

i can't escape

and i've forgotten

all my lines

the other actors

whirl around me

confused by my presence

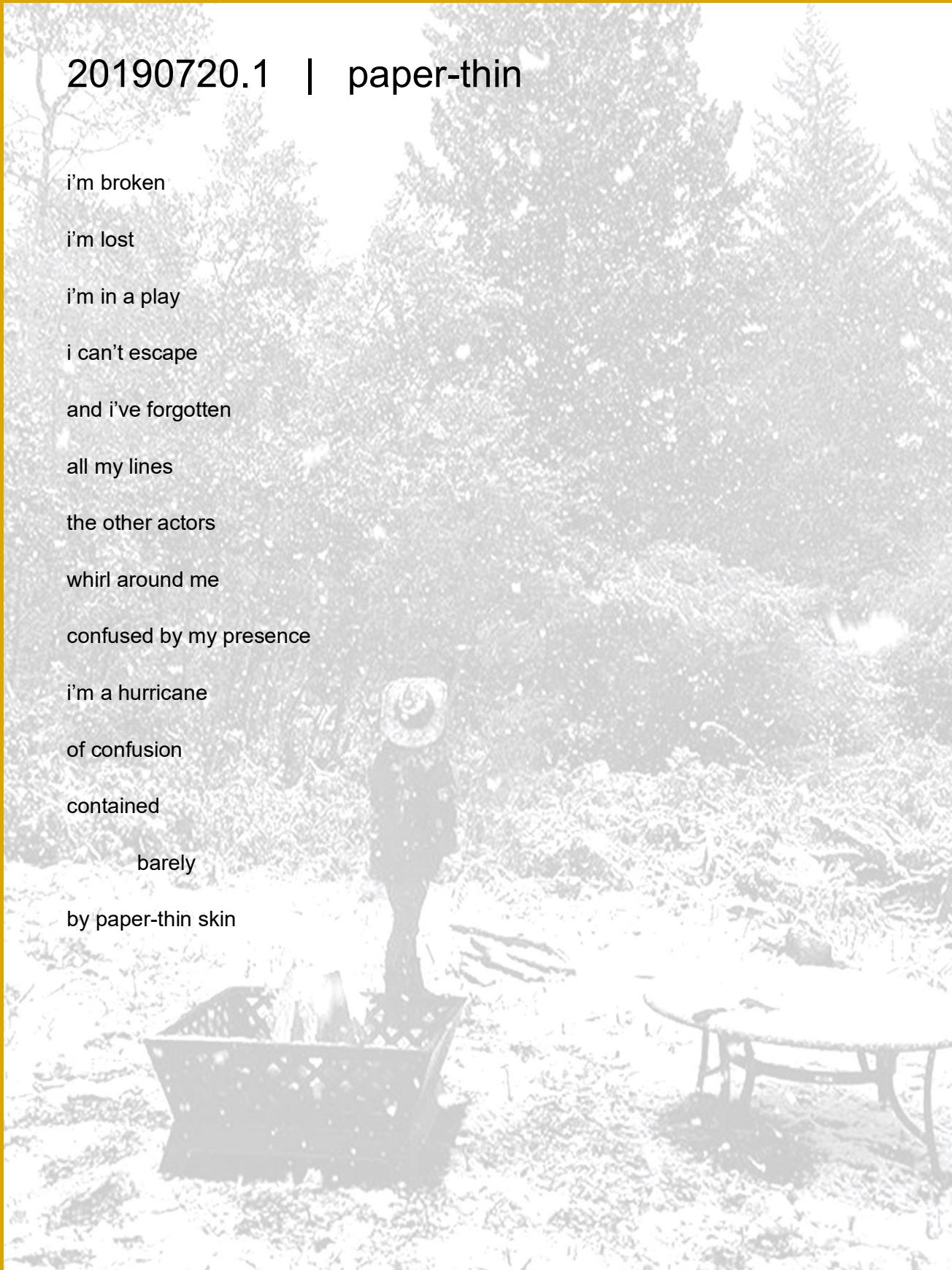
i'm a hurricane

of confusion

contained

barely

by paper-thin skin



## 20190720.2 | open doors

time apart

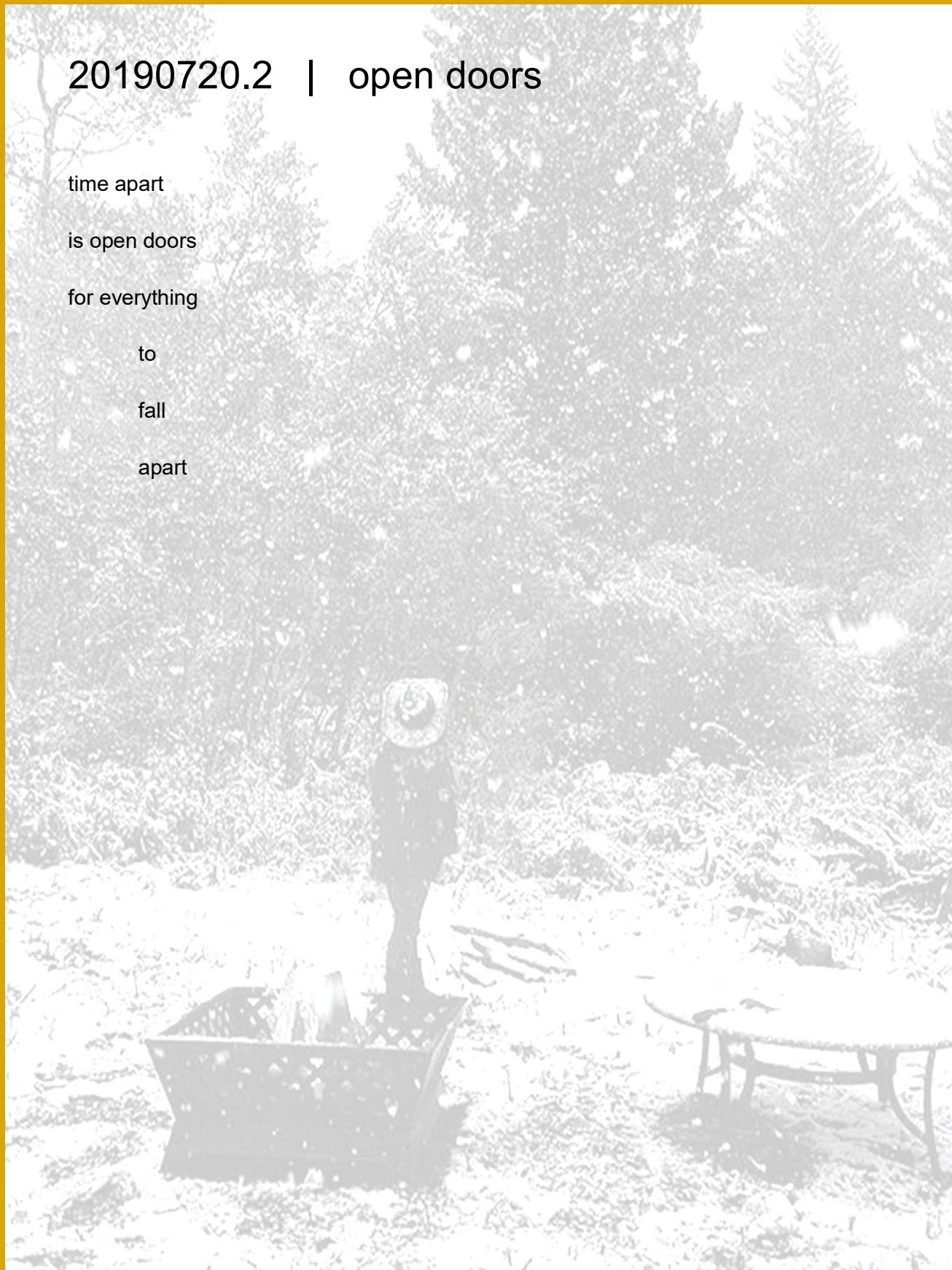
is open doors

for everything

to

fall

apart



## 20190720.3 | wish xviii

i wish

perfect love

was more

than just a moment

i wish

perfect love

could be

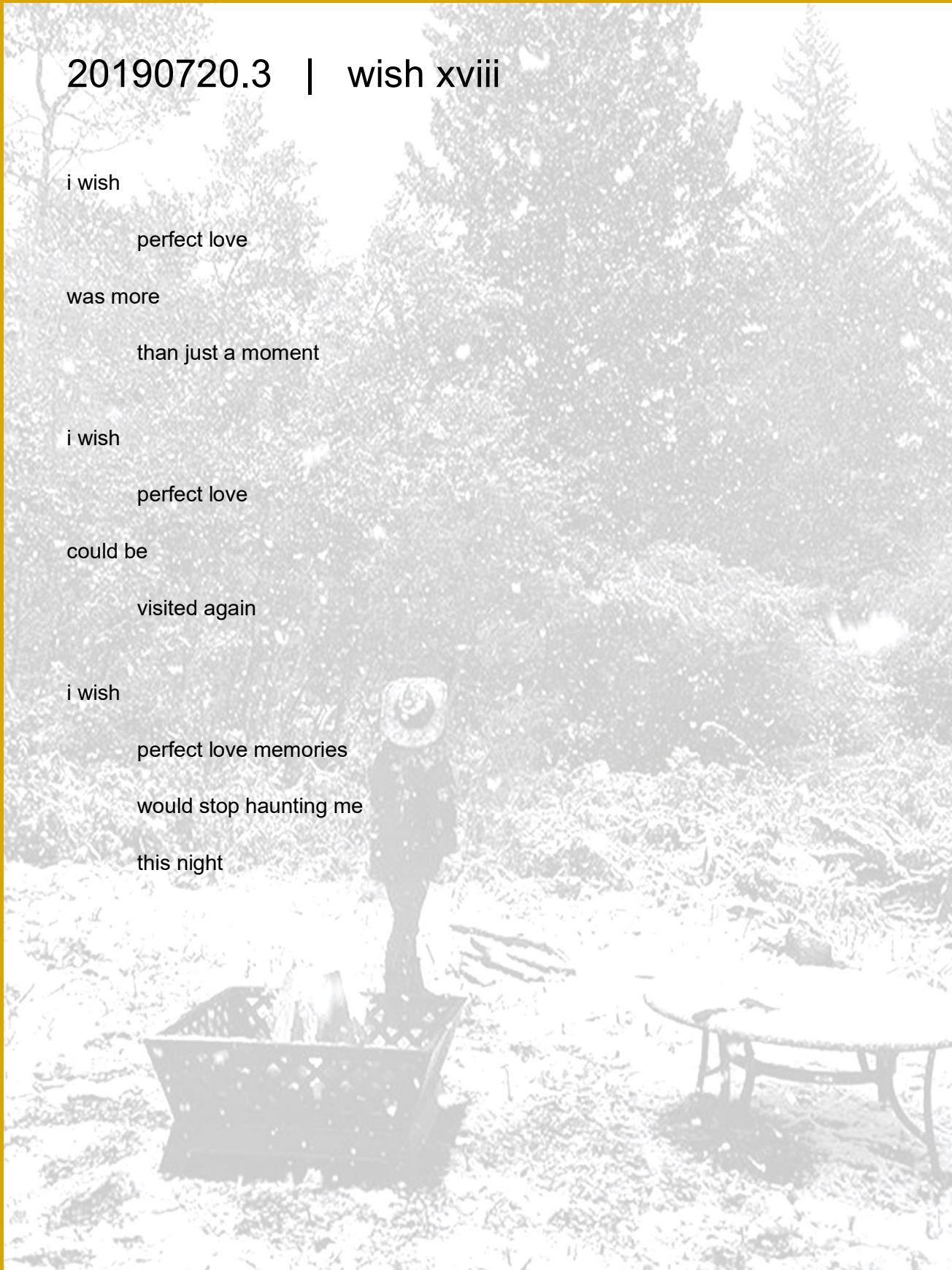
visited again

i wish

perfect love memories

would stop haunting me

this night



## 20190720.4 | shifting

it won't last

it will change

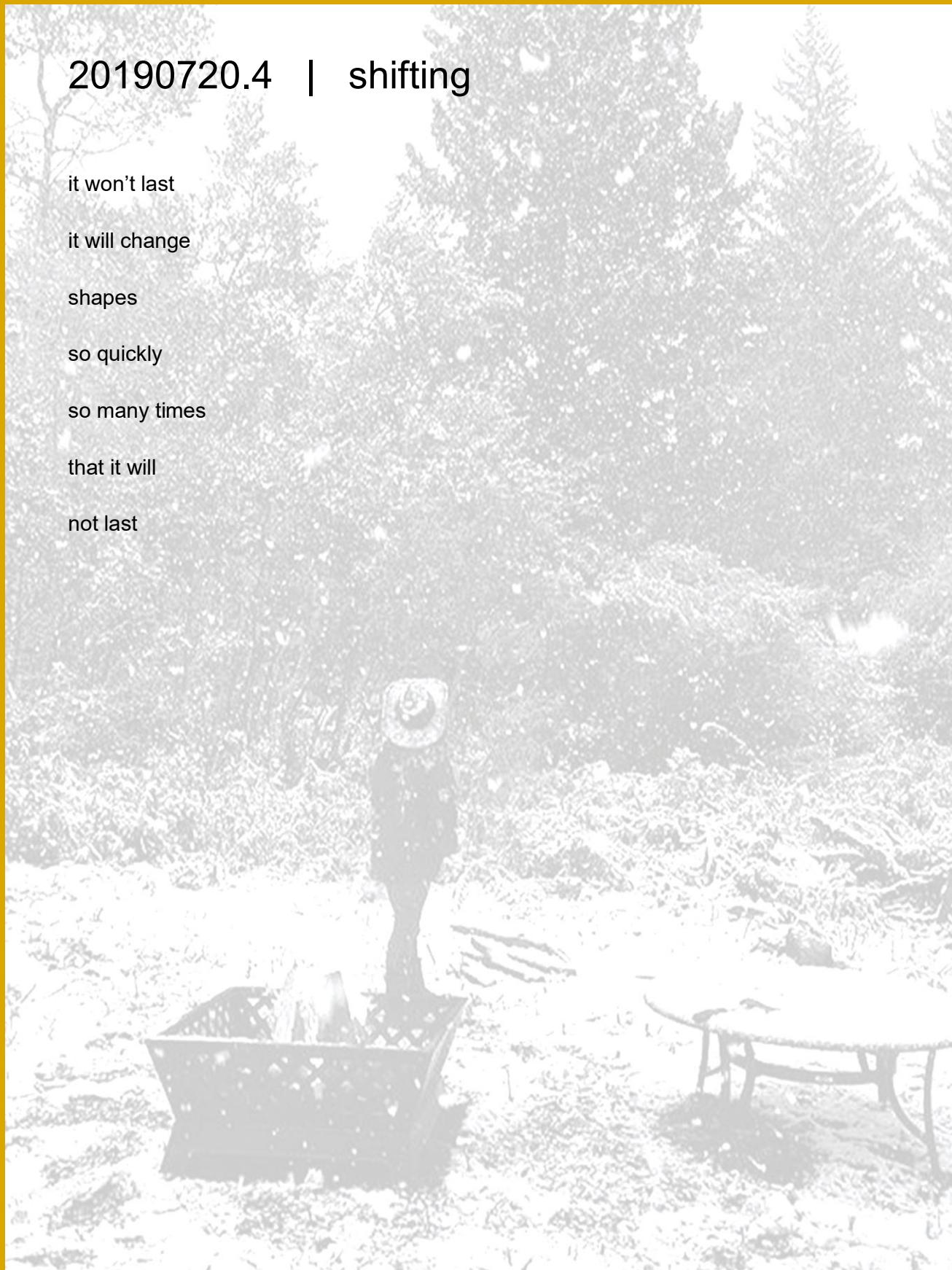
shapes

so quickly

so many times

that it will

not last



## 20190720.5 | my hands

my flesh

is all i've held

i carry it

from lover to lover

her embrace

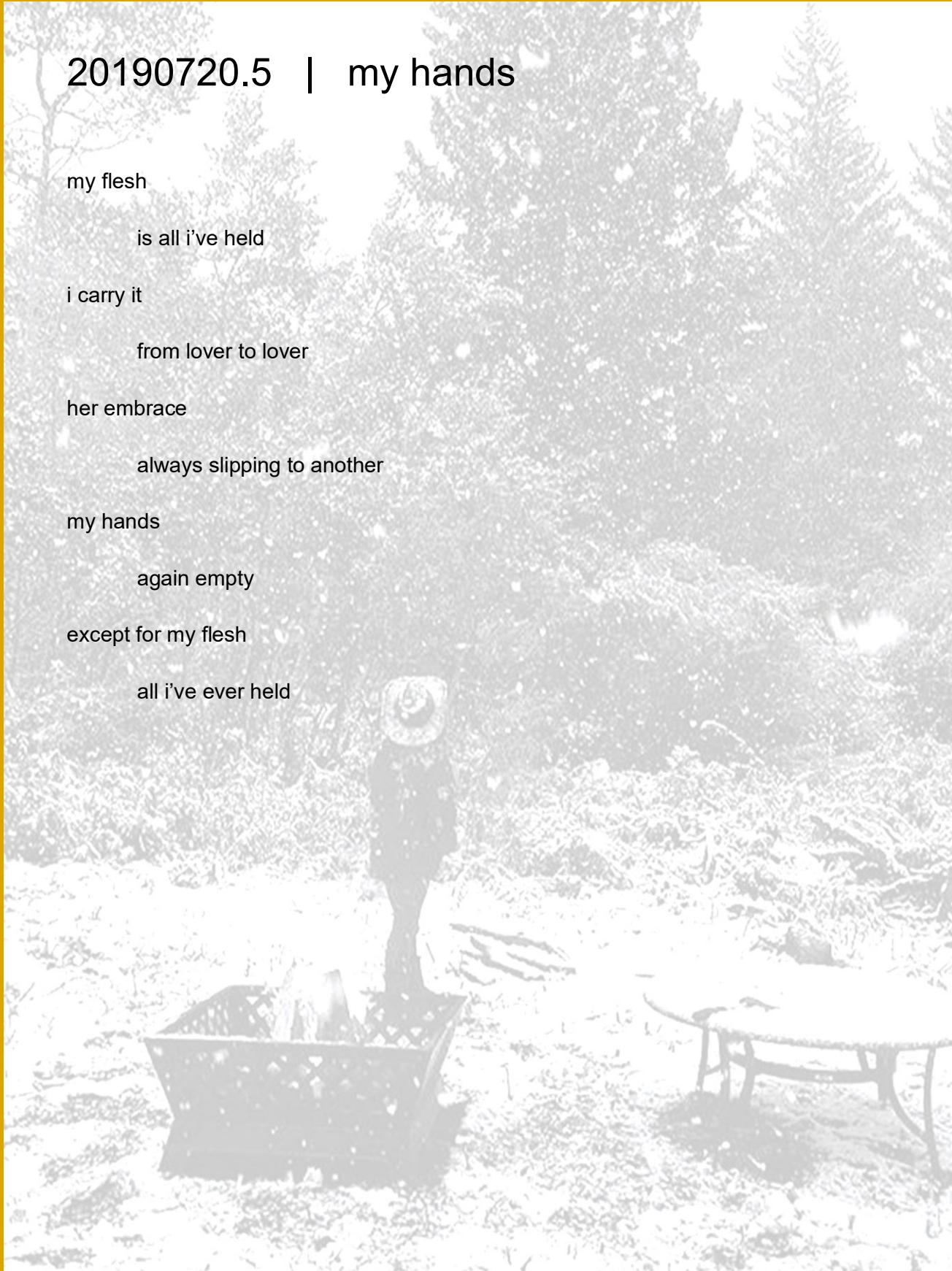
always slipping to another

my hands

again empty

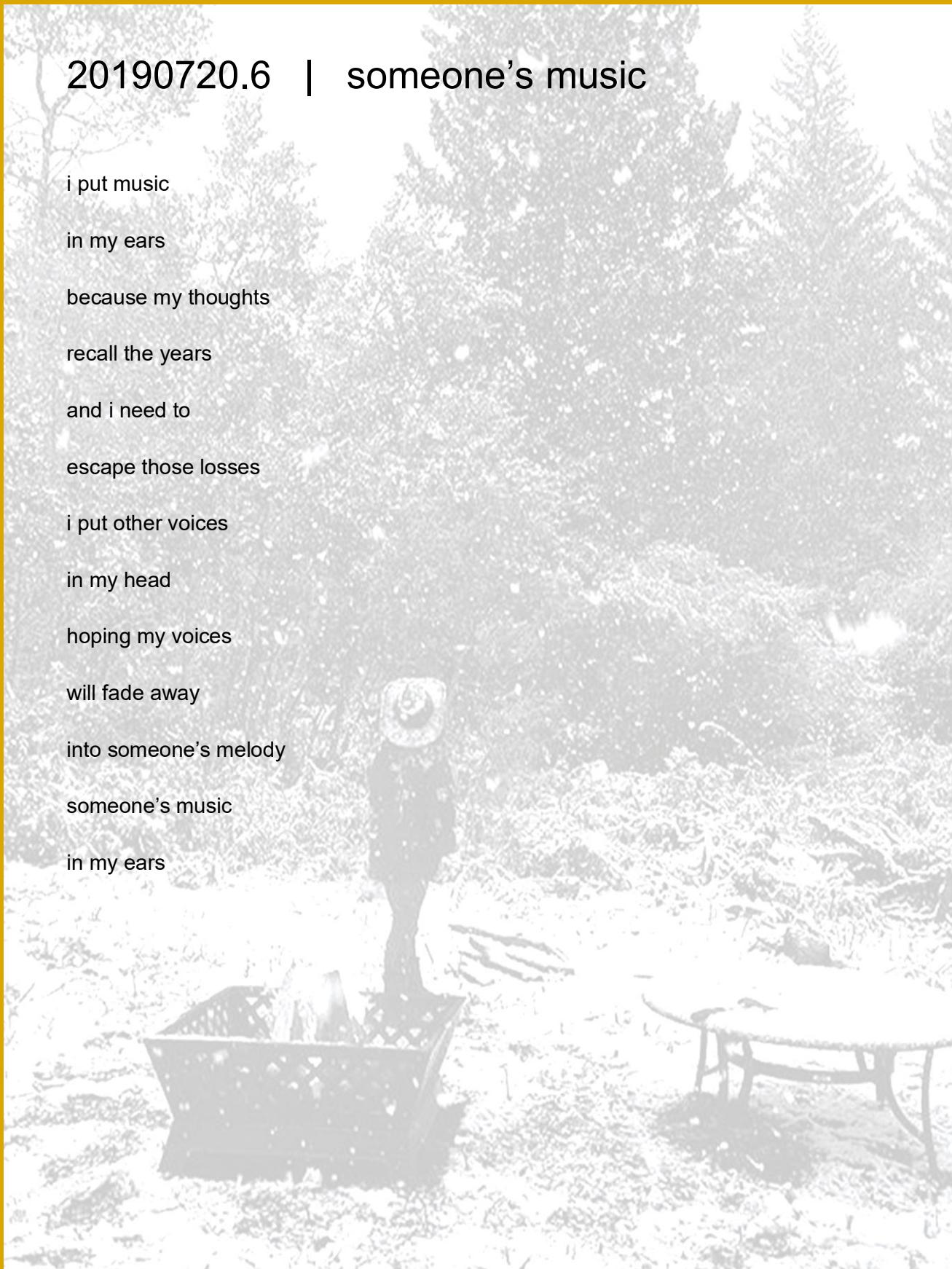
except for my flesh

all i've ever held



## 20190720.6 | someone's music

i put music  
in my ears  
because my thoughts  
recall the years  
and i need to  
escape those losses  
i put other voices  
in my head  
hoping my voices  
will fade away  
into someone's melody  
someone's music  
in my ears



## 20190720.7 | for now

for now  
for now  
keep the course  
for now

for now  
for now  
stand by her side  
for now

for now  
for now  
believe she will  
for now

for now  
for now  
settle down  
for now

for now  
for now  
she sleeps in my arms  
for now

for now  
for now  
until she cries  
and says goodbye  
just love her  
and enjoy her  
and serve her  
bring her gifts  
for now

20190720.8 | love is

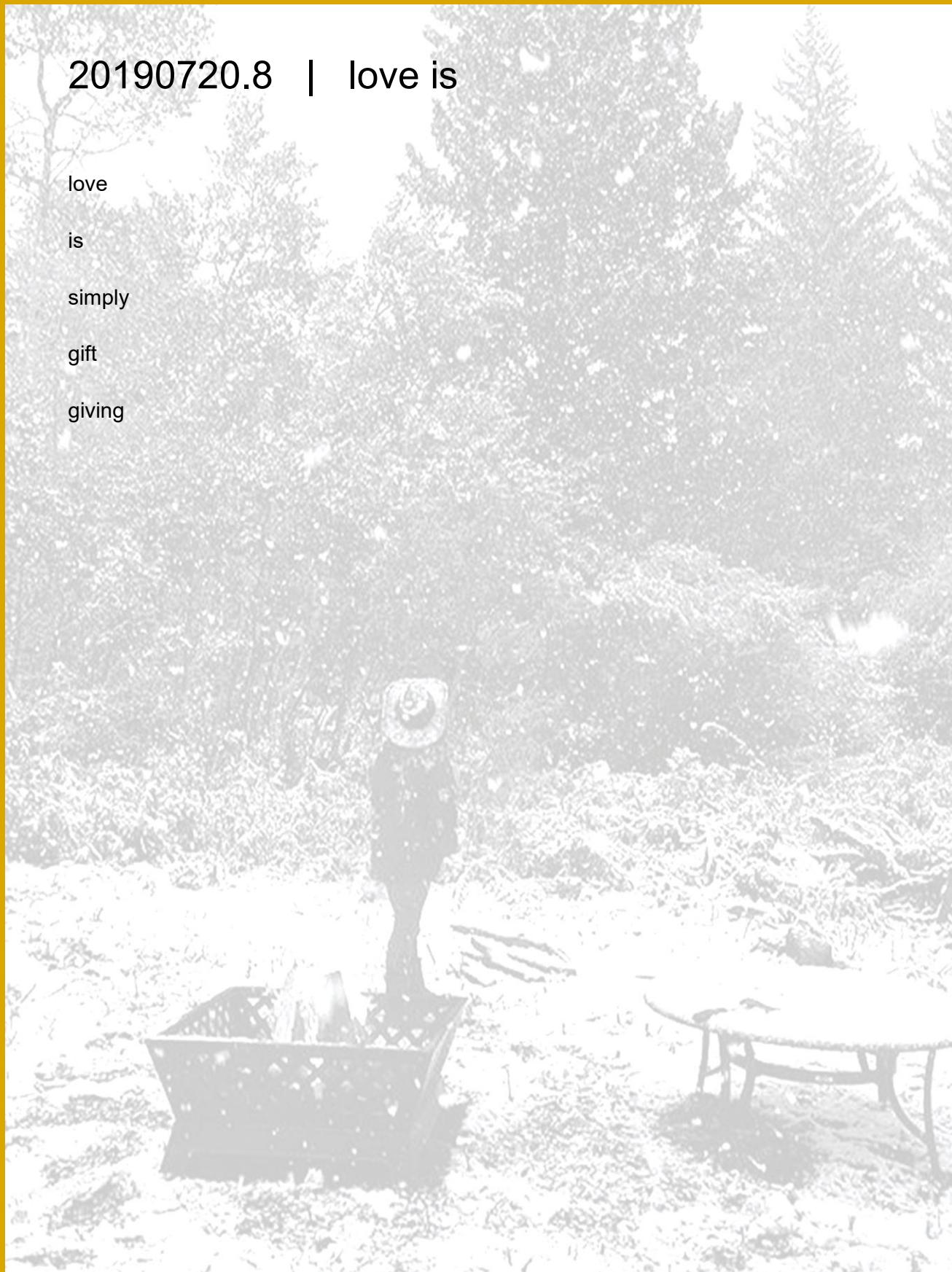
love

is

simply

gift

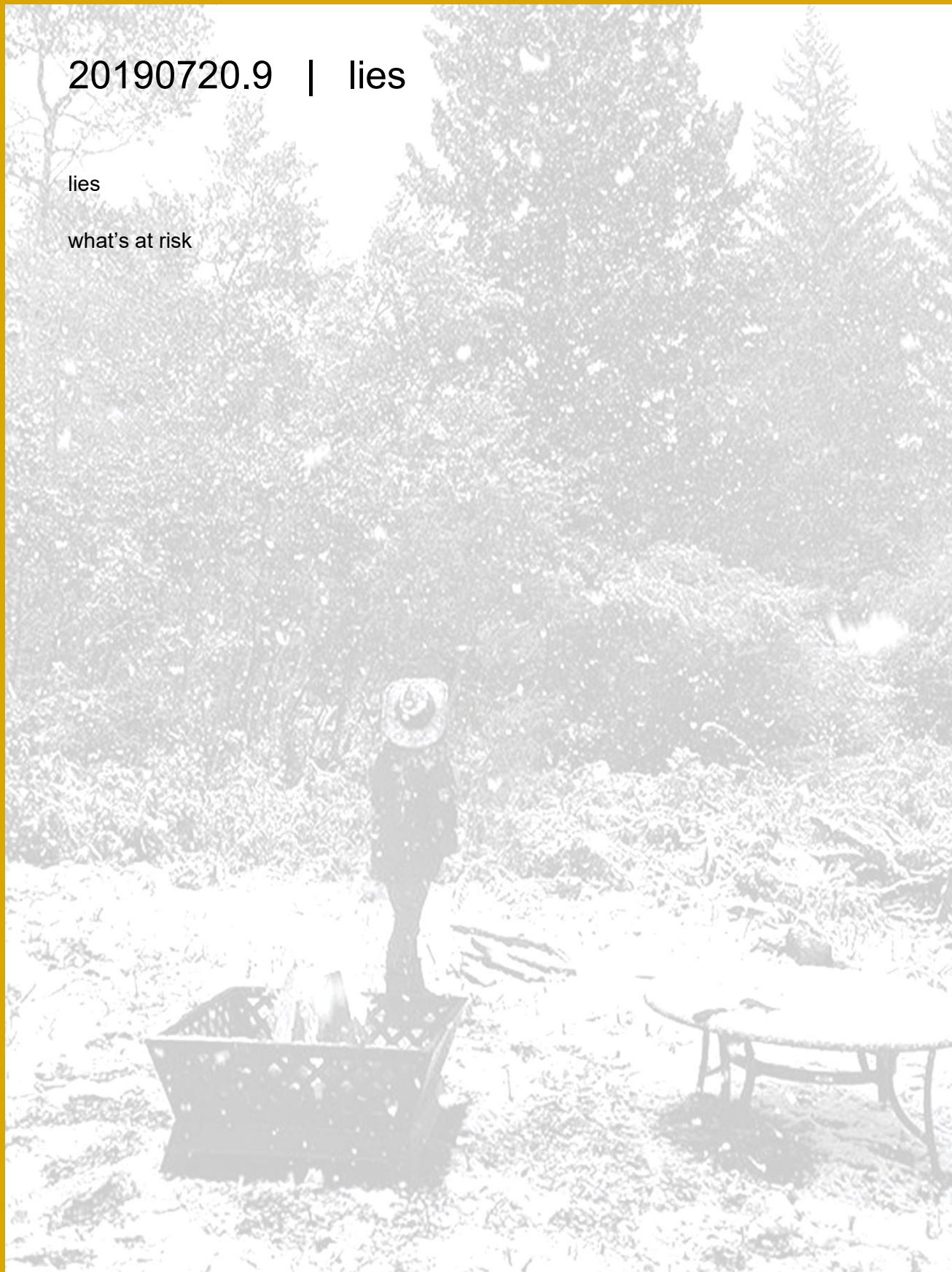
giving



20190720.9 | lies

lies

what's at risk



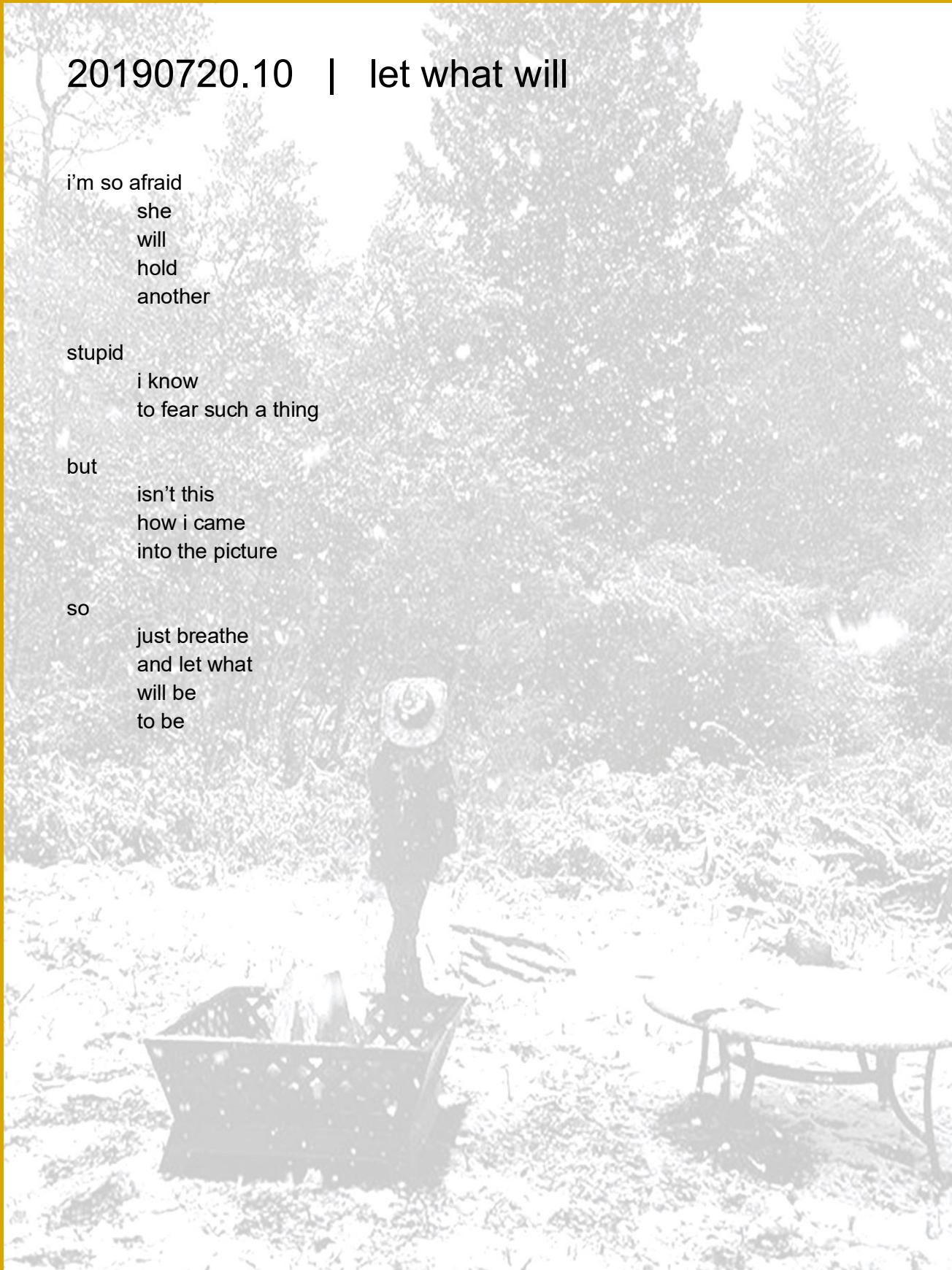
## 20190720.10 | let what will

i'm so afraid  
she  
will  
hold  
another

stupid  
i know  
to fear such a thing

but  
isn't this  
how i came  
into the picture

so  
just breathe  
and let what  
will be  
to be



20190720.11 | two requirements

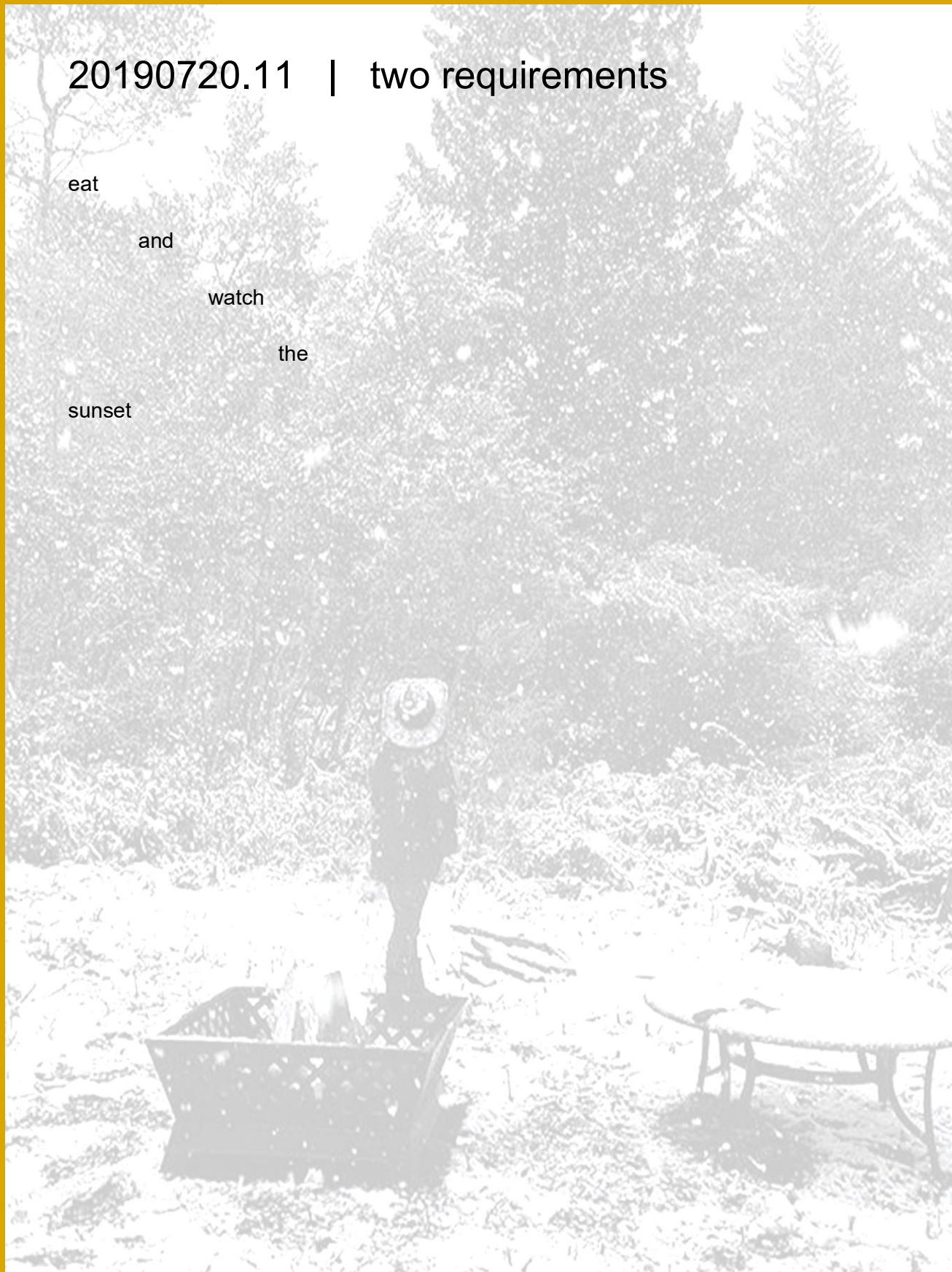
eat

and

watch

the

sunset



## 20190720.12 | ask a favor

god,

if i could  
ask a favor

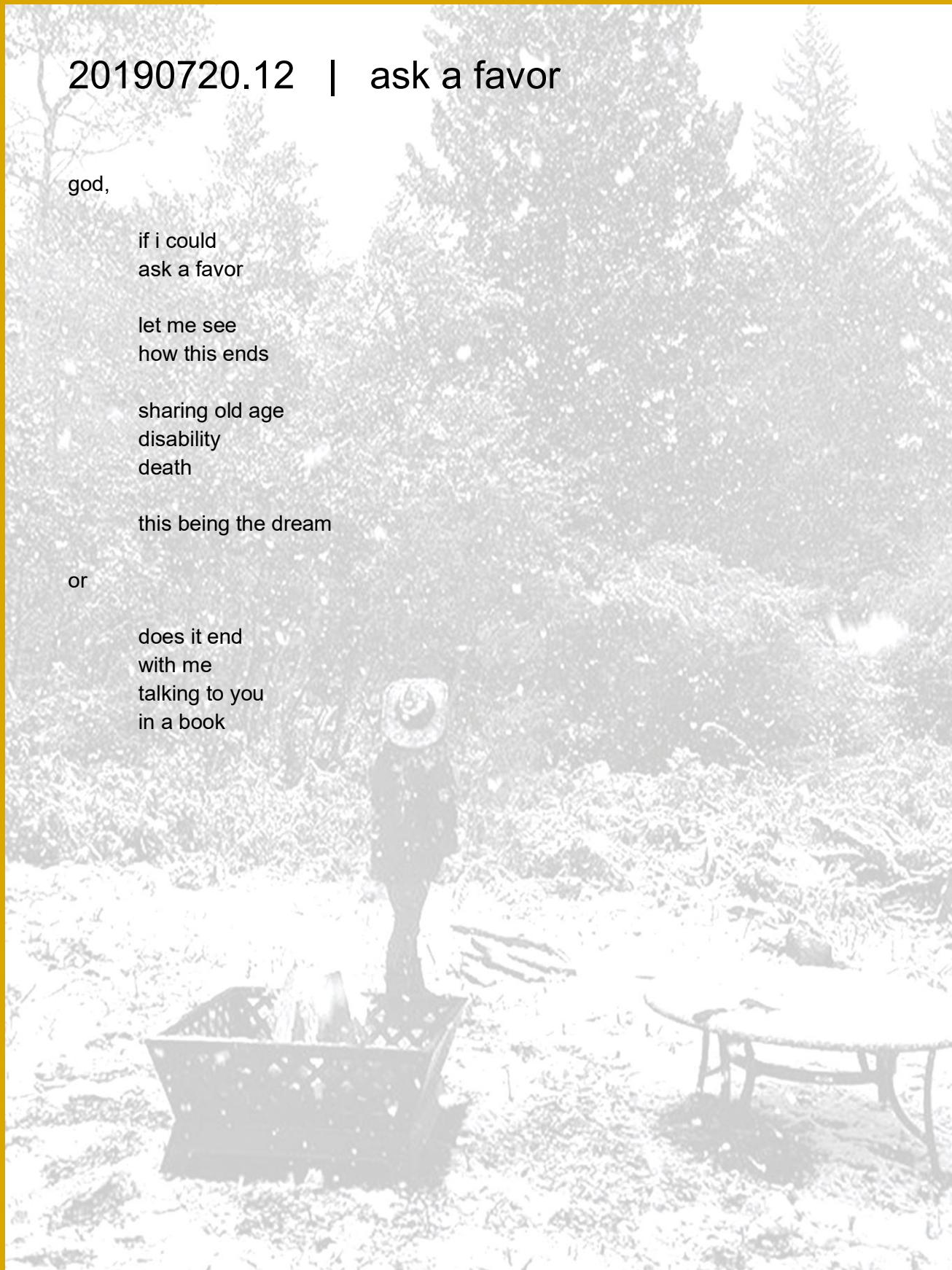
let me see  
how this ends

sharing old age  
disability  
death

this being the dream

or

does it end  
with me  
talking to you  
in a book



## 20190722.1 | unexpected

i'm not supposed to be here

no. really.

i'm not supposed to be here

90 days after almost dying

while giving birth

to my older brother

i was conceived

a tragedy

i'm not supposed to be here

i was nursed on

latex nipples

and plastic bottles

filled with formula

the ad agencies

sold as

"better than mother"

i'm not supposed to be here

i was four when my sister was born

with birth defects

the next two years

dad worked

while mom hovered over

the hospital bed

of her baby

i'm not supposed to be here

my insecurities are massive

they ruin every relationship

is there a woman

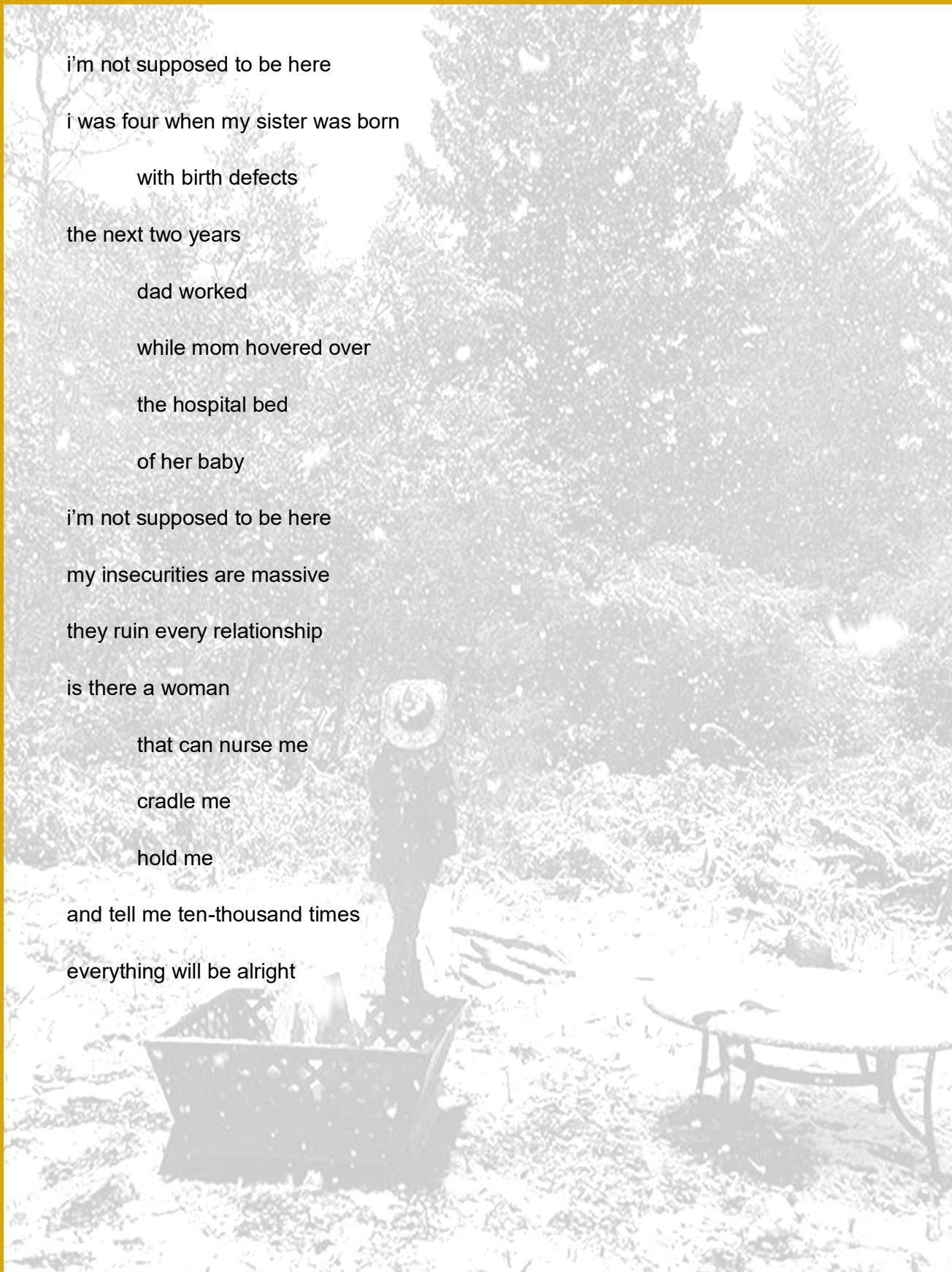
that can nurse me

cradle me

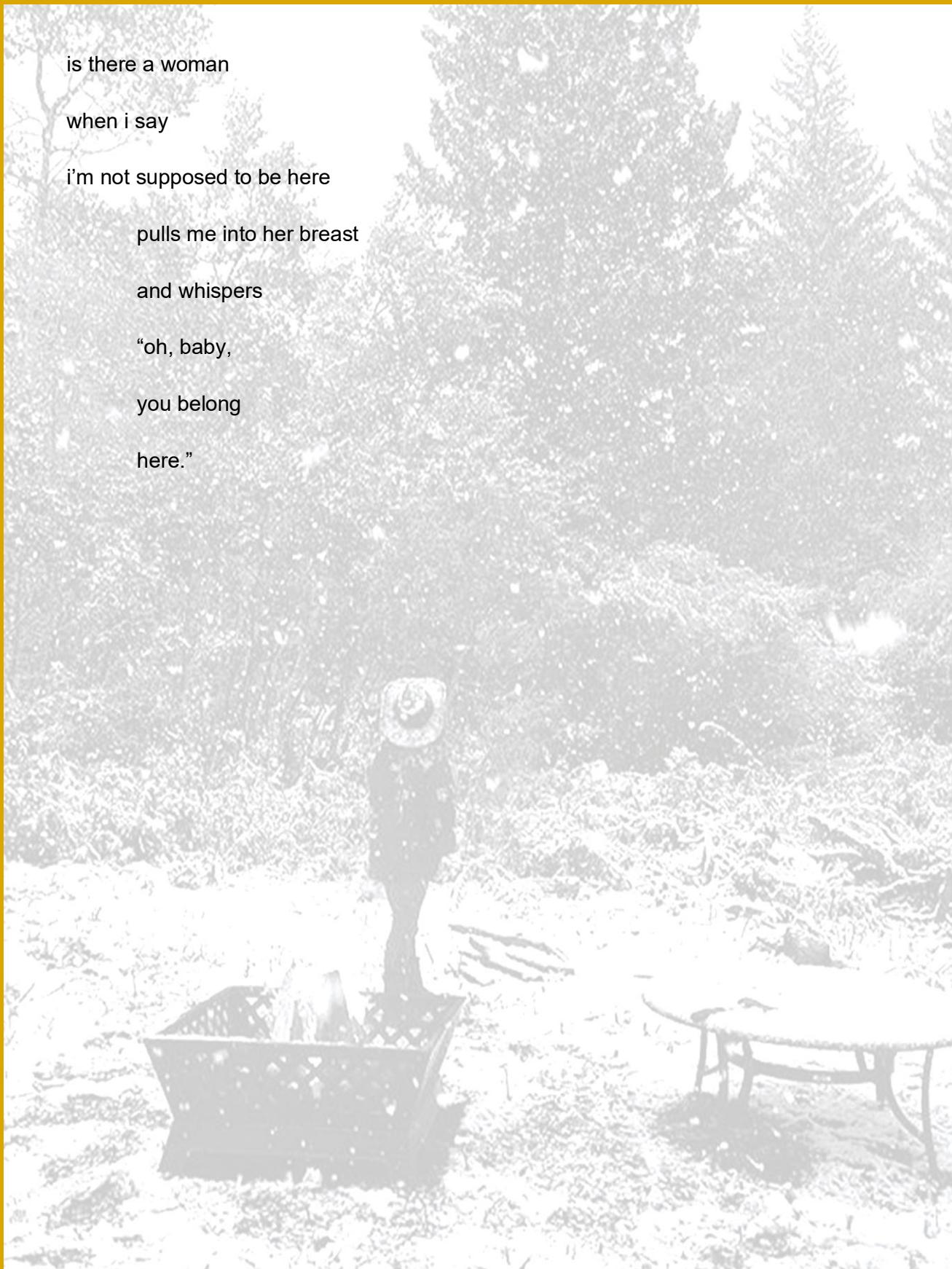
hold me

and tell me ten-thousand times

everything will be alright



is there a woman  
when i say  
i'm not supposed to be here  
pulls me into her breast  
and whispers  
“oh, baby,  
you belong  
here.”



20190722.2 | space time

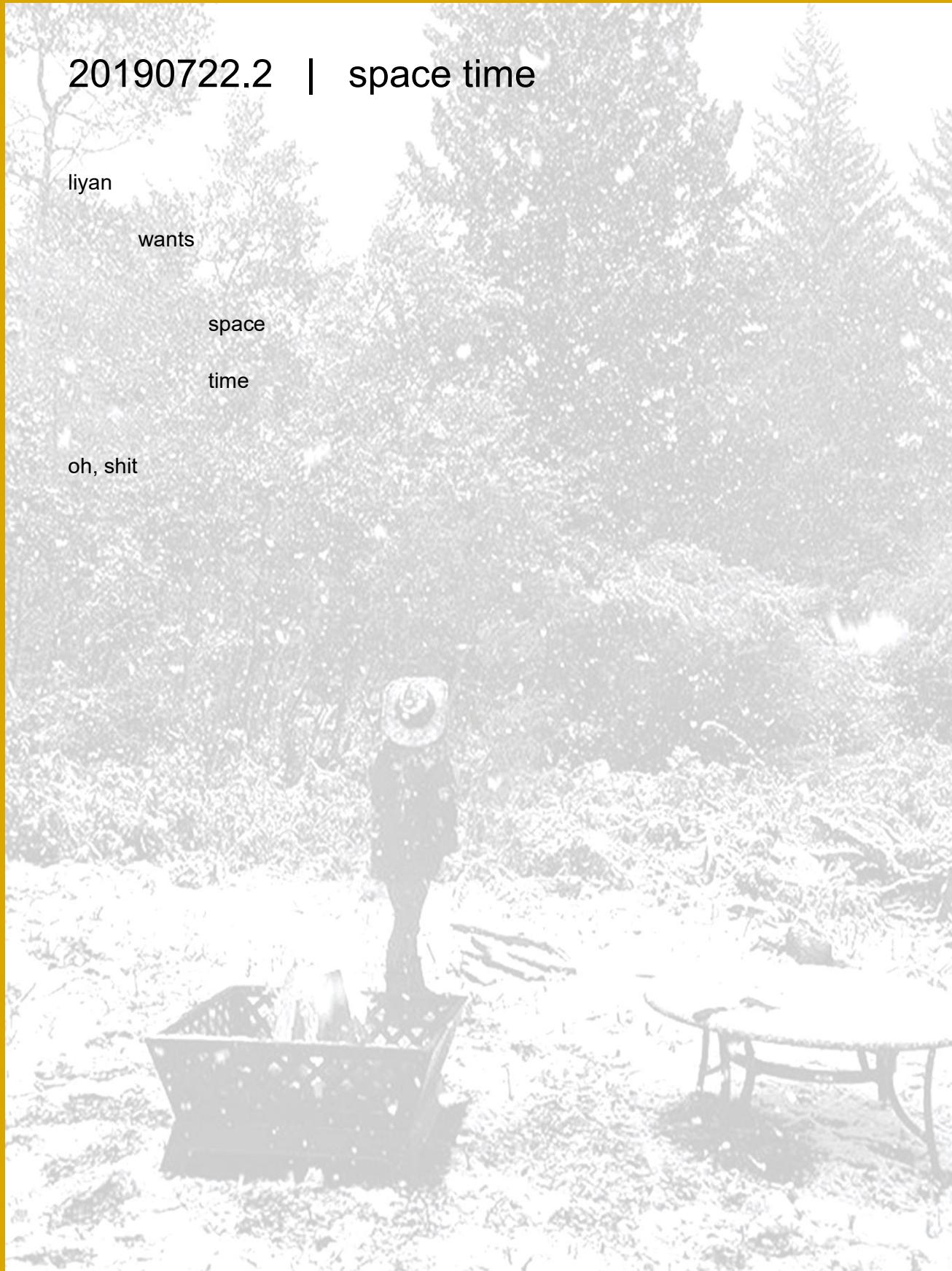
liyan

wants

space

time

oh, shit



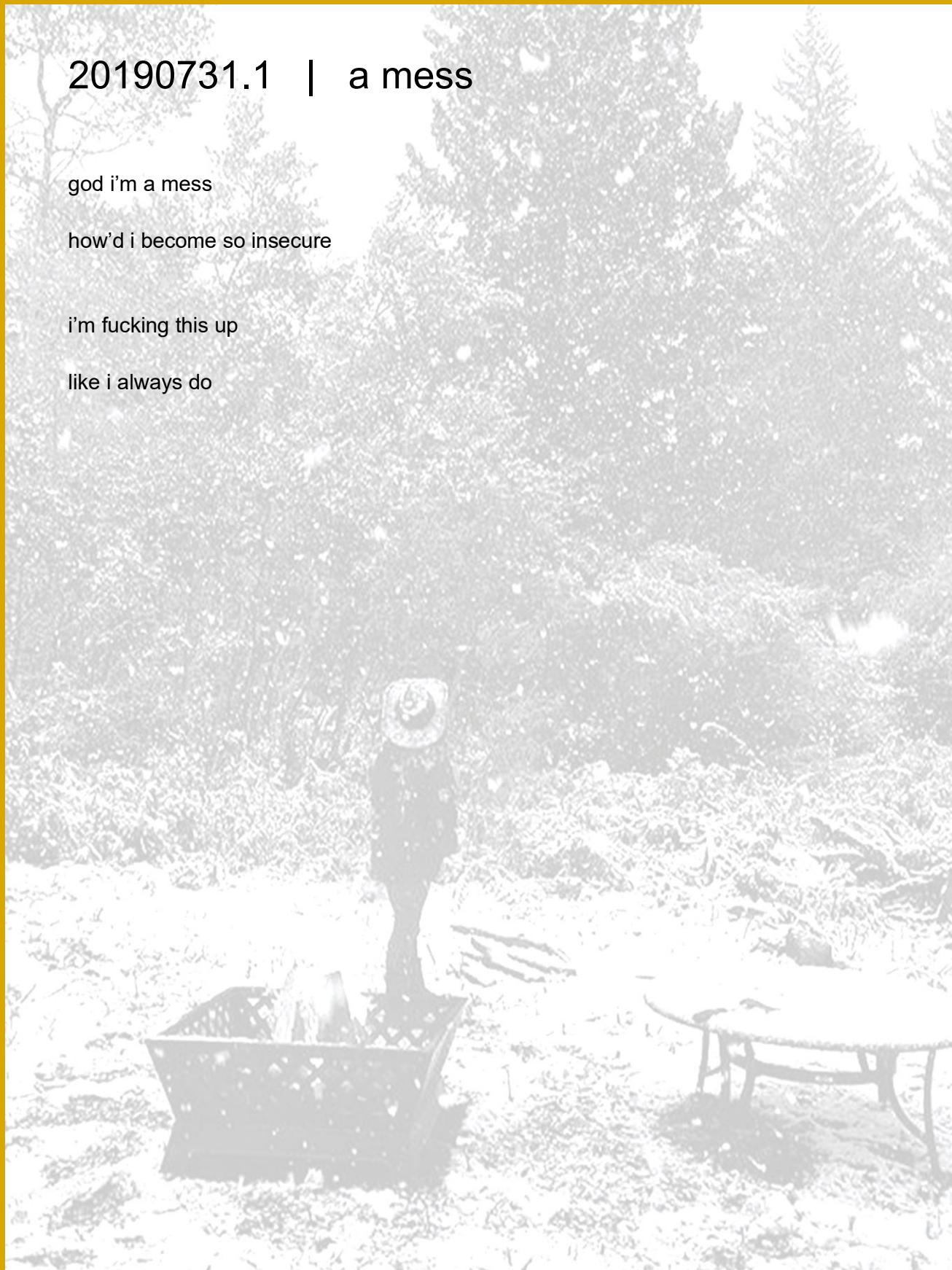
20190731.1 | a mess

god i'm a mess

how'd i become so insecure

i'm fucking this up

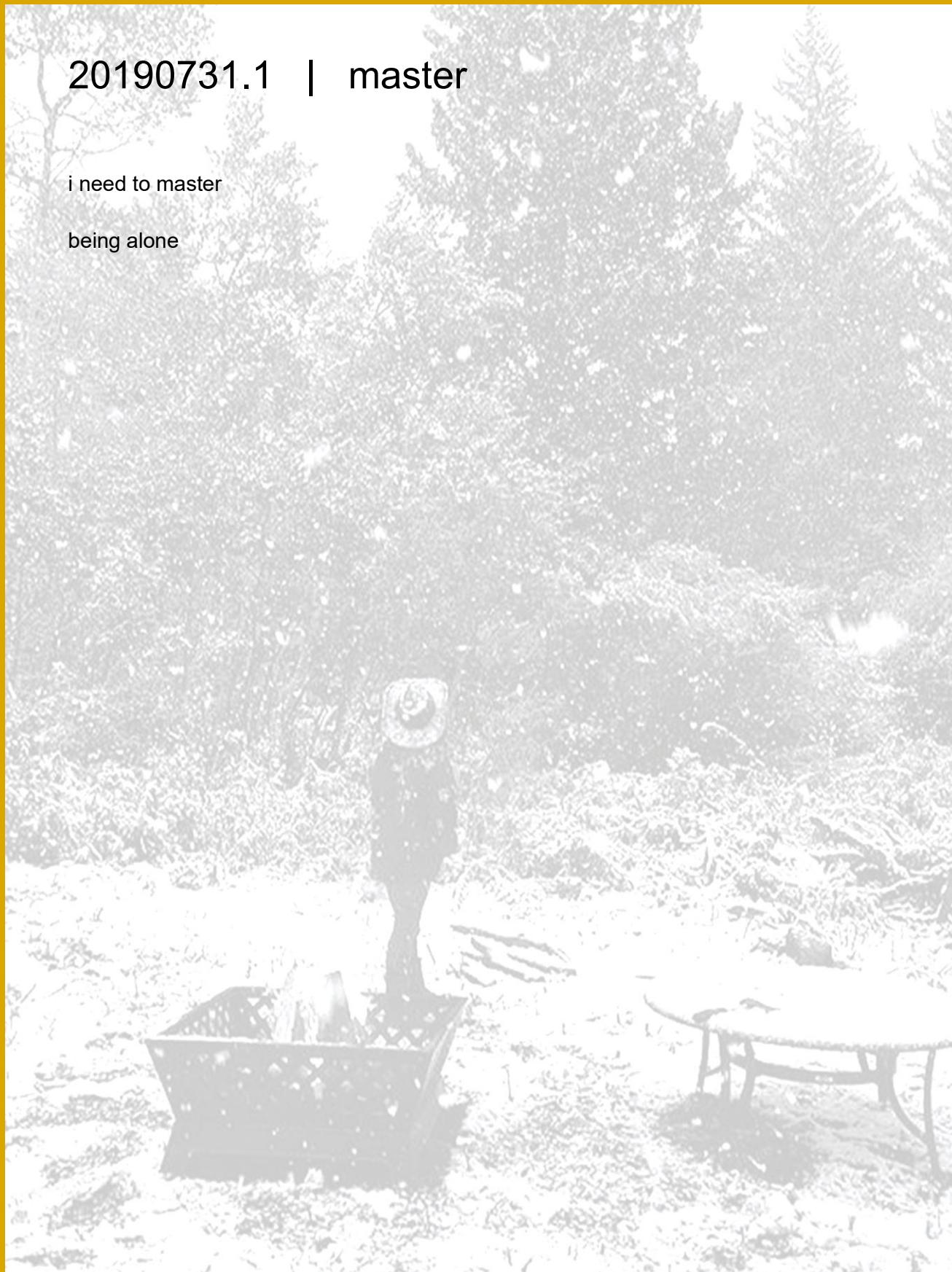
like i always do



20190731.1 | master

i need to master

being alone



## 20190808.1 | it's about trust

it's about trust

about believing

that other person

will choose not to do

the things that will

break you

trusting that other person

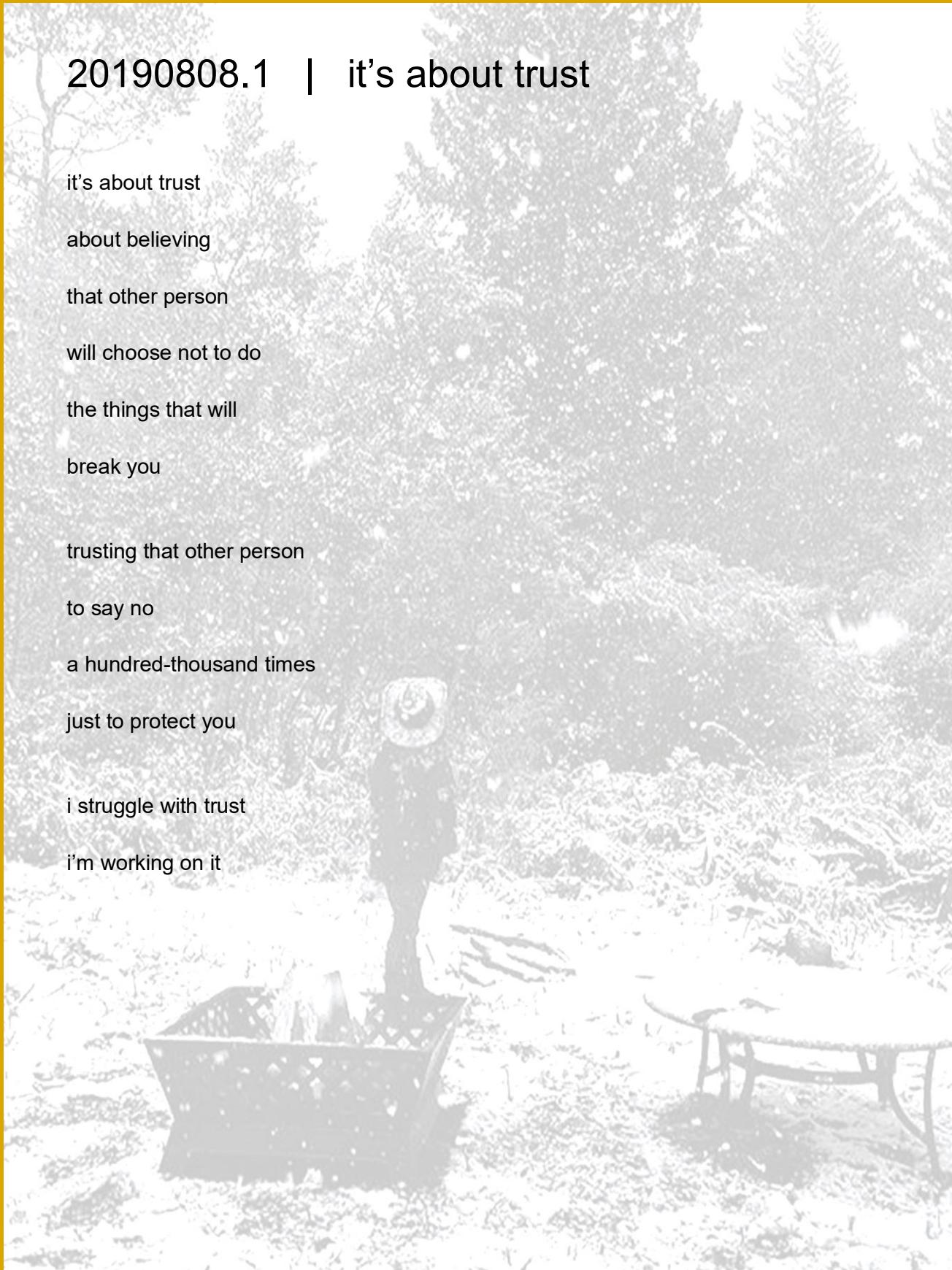
to say no

a hundred-thousand times

just to protect you

i struggle with trust

i'm working on it



## 20190808.2 | trust is naïve

trust is naive

absolutely

it is foolish to believe

but

in that belief

in that trust

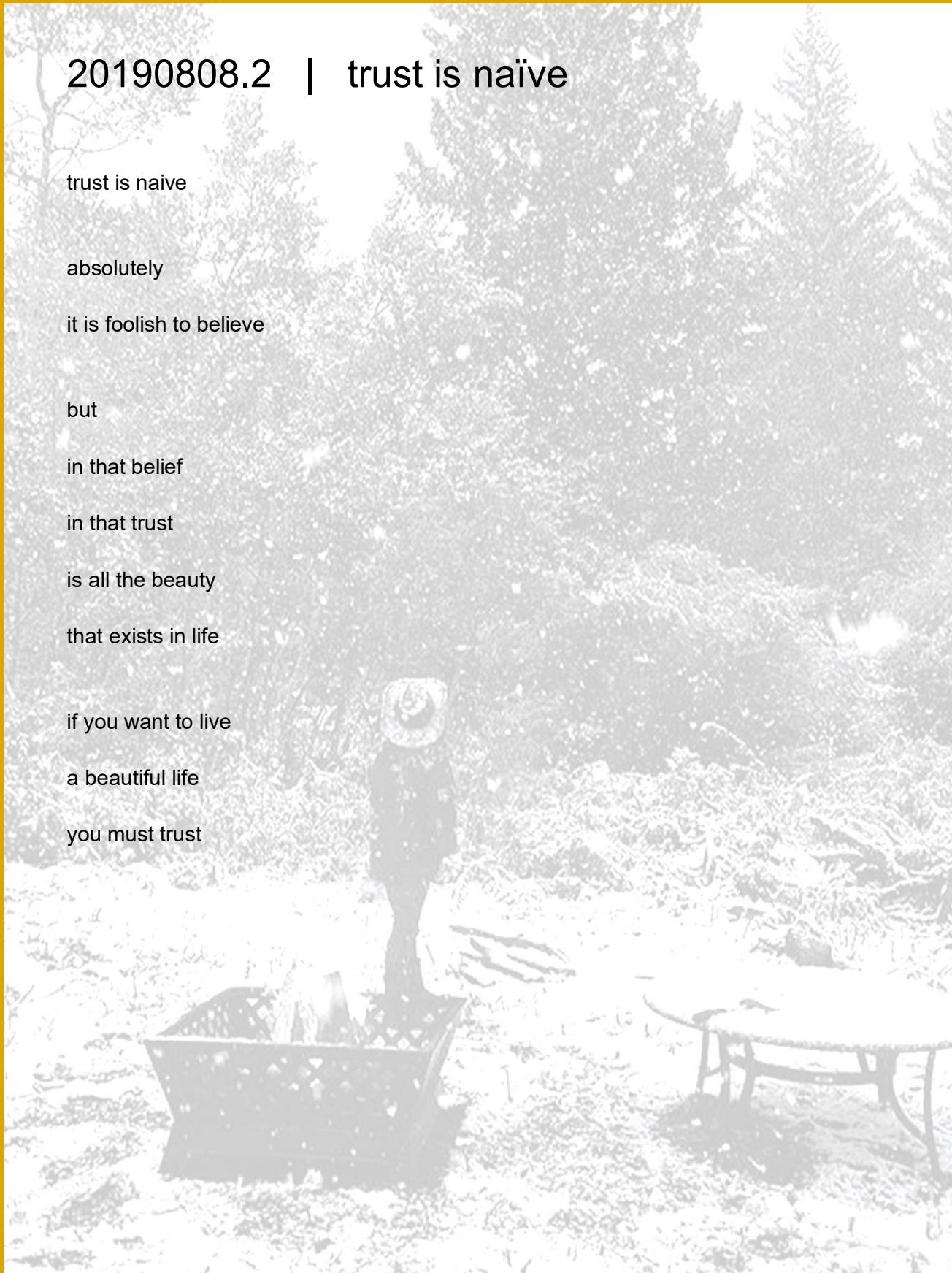
is all the beauty

that exists in life

if you want to live

a beautiful life

you must trust



## 20190817.1 | the pattern we love

all stages of grief

end in acceptance

life is absolutely

a kaleidoscope

a constantly changing

pattern

but sometimes

a pattern comes into view

that is so beautiful

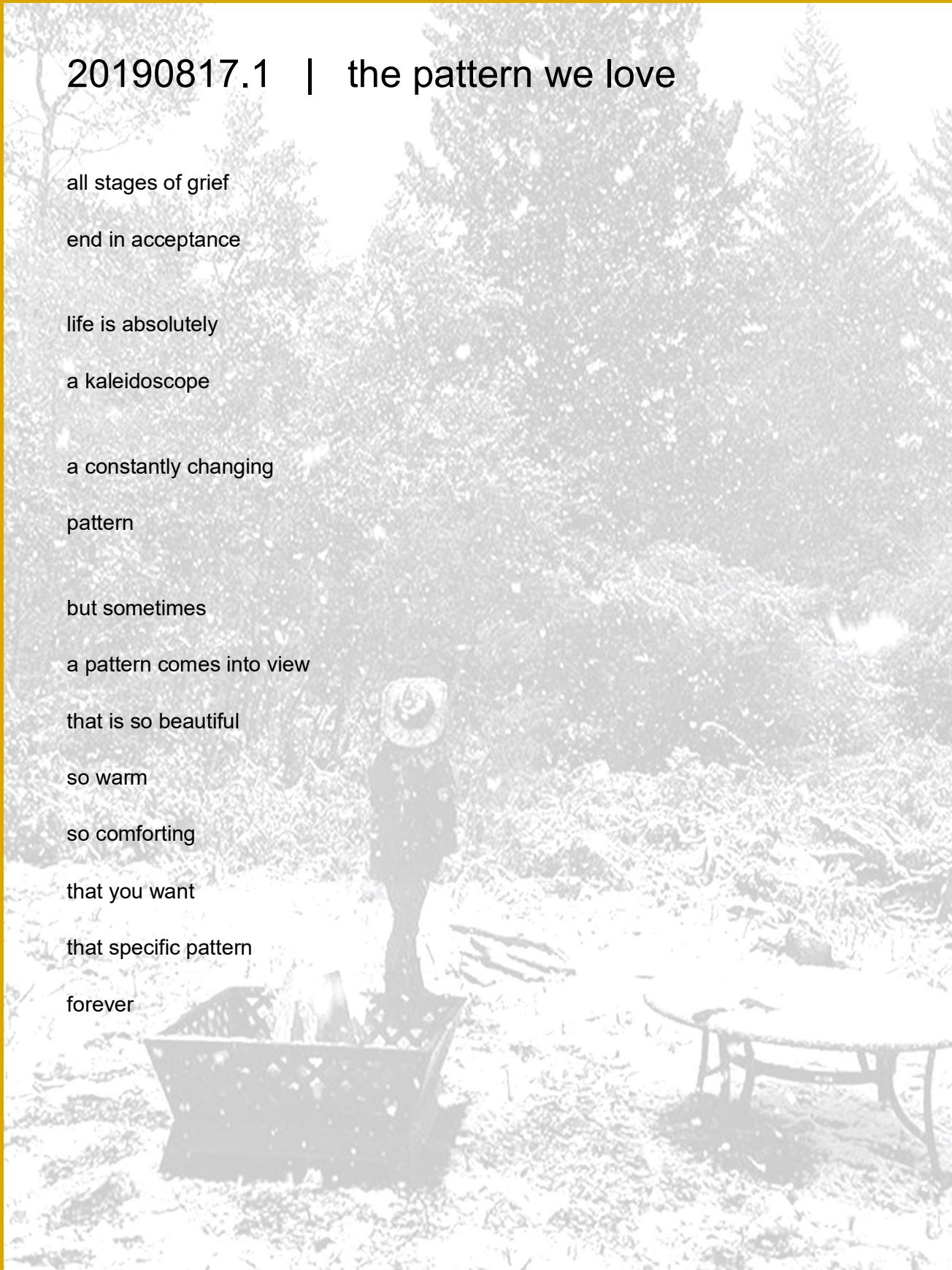
so warm

so comforting

that you want

that specific pattern

forever



it does not work

that way

the view we love

the pattern we hold

changes

and our heart breaks

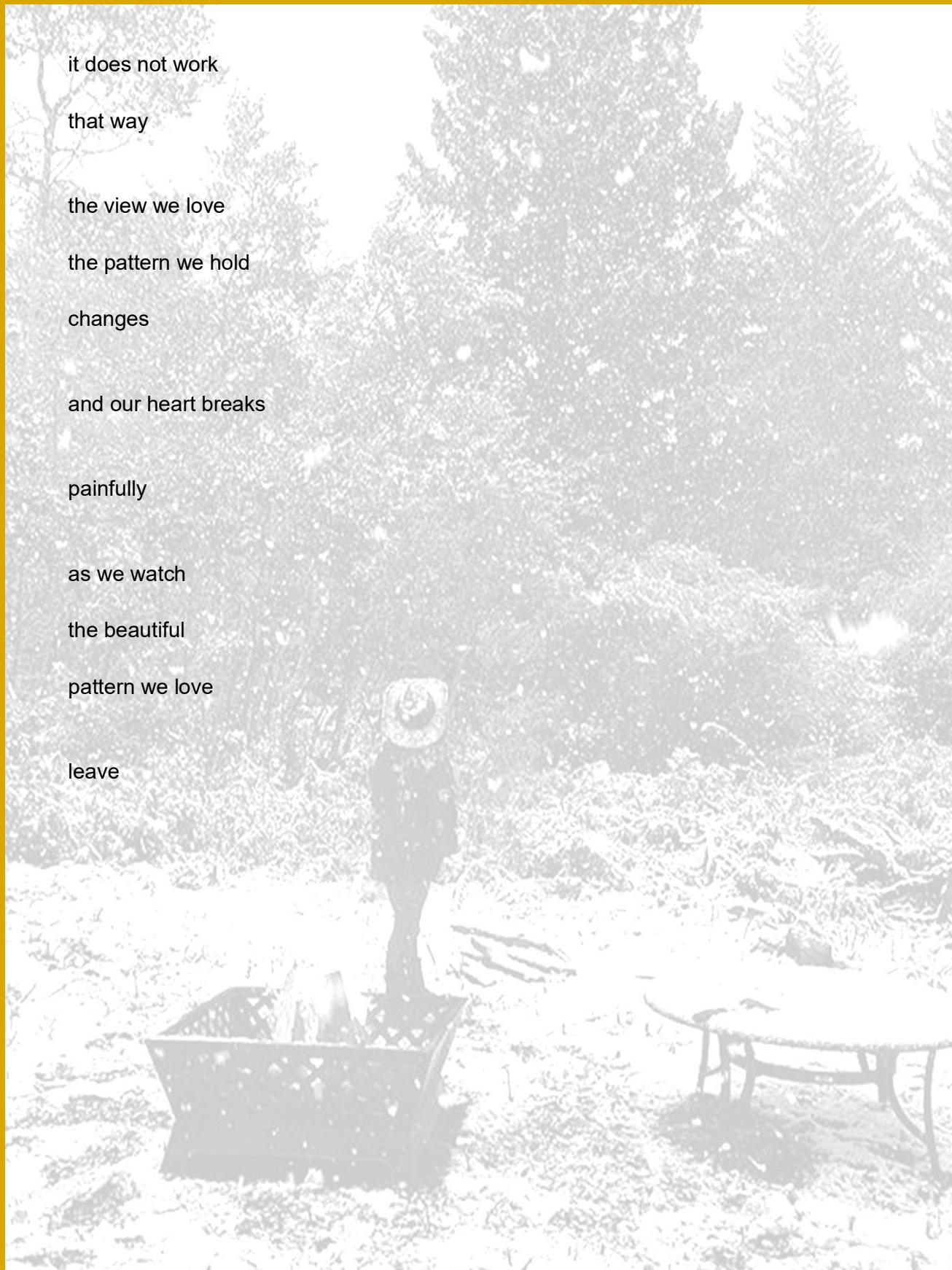
painfully

as we watch

the beautiful

pattern we love

leave



end

# A Human Life

a book of poems

by  
pc keefer

book one  
end

