

# *The Wall*

*by Mir-Yashar Seyedbagheri*

## **WHY WE LIKE IT:**

*It's not often we'll choose to publish a submission just because of a couple of sentences. But here they are." Rulers construct a wall that extends around the world. The dead climb over with fifty foot ladders.' In just 17 words the author paints a terrifying picture that lingers in the mind like the Hell panels in Flemish triptychs. Hieronymus Bosch is dead and alive in Trump's 2019.*

The dead re-enter the world, fleeing the afterlife. They search for loved ones. There are tearful reunions, but they drain resources, emotional and physical. The world is enveloped by fear. Rumors fly. The dead are smuggling drugs. Venereal diseases. People buy it. They need explanations.

Rulers construct a wall that extends around the world. The dead climb over with fifty-foot ladders.

Countries try to make each other pay for the wall. British and Irish fling Guinness at each other. Brazilians and Mexicans fight in soccer games. Dead and living fight. People keep buying into falsehoods, even though they secretly know better.

## **AUTHOR'S NOTE:**

*The story was inspired by Trump and his wall, especially his pledge that Mexico would pay for it. I've come to see writing as another form of resistance, along with protests and civic engagement. I wrote this*

*piece with that intention. The goals: expose absurdity and find humor in dark and tempestuous times. I believe in the power of humor, paired with writing. In terms of particular literary influences, George Saunders had a strong impact on this piece. While more of a literary realist, I do enjoy pieces such as Saunders's memorable 'Sea Oak'. That piece had significant bearing on the story, mainly the notion of the dead interacting with the living.*

**BIO:**

Mir-Yashar Seyedbagheri is a graduate of Colorado State University's MFA program in fiction. A recipient of two Honourable Mentions, he has had work nominated for the Best Small Fictions. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in journals such as The Blue Moon Literary and Art Review, Fewer Than 500, Sinkhole Mag and 100 Word Story. Mir-Yashar Seyedbagheri lives in Fort Collins, CO.