

## Rise

it is raining hard for the 29th straight night the number of years i have been alive  
 and over on cherry street a man begins to yell and i wonder if he has been stabbed or had an eye gouged  
 out by someone's mad thumb  
 what could make him yell like that? what is it like to die in the rain like this  
 see blood ooze out if he can see at all  
 the roof is leaking in this house and the basement is flooding it rises to the bottom stair  
 all i hear is water it pelts the panes overruns the gutters drips through the ceiling and his blood is flowing  
 a siren splashes and swims its way through the valley and the buzzhorn of medic one is coming and going  
 to make this man's world full of linoleum and emergency rooms his wet muddy clothes will clash with the  
 rheumy doctor's scalpel and protective mask  
 will they look each other in the eyes?  
 i wonder why martin luther king blvd always goes through the poor sections, the valleys, where there is no  
 dominion except a channel in which to run refuse and garbage on its way to the river and to the sea  
 cars and ambulances slog through a shoe a blanket is lost to the gutter the muddy basement rises water  
 plinks into pots and pans and the rotten ceiling caves in  
 the sky comes to crush this room this house the hole in the roof empties where there is no place left to go  
 everything is cement and blacktop and water runs down from the clearcuts along the naked mountainside  
 to this valley with the name mlk/the rain is falling from all sides it will not stop/the sirens fade  
 the man is gone  
 but it won't stop  
 29 days  
 years  
 nights  
 my eyes  
 seattle new york and everything in between is a wound  
 and my hands cannot stop the holes  
 my fingers on my belly cannot hold back the flood  
 flood come  
 let it rain rain  
 let the yells come down

— Bob Redmond



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