

The Difficulty of Morning

1

A spectral fox
muzzles its meal
from the transfigured
roadside mist
gray in drainage ditch.

It wants what all things
want. A pause in the hunt
and run so hunger
can enter the body
and be fulfilled.

2

In the bitter clarity
that burns morning
with subzero cold
I wonder
where the fox slept.

I wonder where
the bones of its dark meal
lie scattered white under
the fierce powder
of last night's snow.

3

I want what all things
want, a hunger
to enter me, a mist
to frost my edges
silver with bright knowing.

I wonder where
the clarity of dreams
went as I lie within
these white dunes
of morning sheets.

4

A bitter wind sloughs
syllables of bright snow,
erases fox and bones,
effaces syllables
of dreams with cold light.



ABOUT DAVID ANTHONY SAM

David Anthony Sam is the author of *Memories in Clay, Dreams of Wolves* (2014) and *Dark Land, White Light* (1974, 2nd edition 2014). His poems have recently appeared in *Carbon Culture Review*, *The Write Place at the Write Time*, *The Summerset Review*, *Scapegoat Review*, and *Literature Today*. He lives in Virginia and serves as the president of Germanna Community College. His website is located at www.davidanthonysam.com.

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