

# Spitwads

by Gary Hardaway

## Law

It's language used to modulate desire-  
for vengeance, acquisitive duplicity,  
and transitory physical delight.  
Like other language, it half succeeds.

## Now

we don't need  
Heaven to perfect us.  
We can Photoshop  
ourselves instead.

## Deposits

The anger has no other place to go  
so it pools beneath the skin, a viscous  
hydro carbon, spoiling digestion and sleep,  
corrupting the warm damp organs within.

## Advice to Contemporary Poets

Learn to weaponize your poems.  
Cutlass those couplets,  
dagger dimeter.  
visualize virulent and viral villanelles.  
Hiroshima horrendous hydro-hexameter,  
Metastasize metaphor into bio-terrific tercets.

Yes, weaponize your poems-  
become the first poet-billionaire.

### **Manifesto**

Science is our provisional understanding of existence.  
Art is our provisional understanding of human existence.  
Everything else just enables our understanding by paying for it.

### **Tessellation**

Murder shrinks  
to fit inside your screen  
and run an hour, ads included,  
messy start to tidy finish.

### **Dialectic Immaterialism**

Certainty is an illusion.  
Of this I am quite certain.

### **Re-naming the Era**

Too many chirps and little blinking lights  
assail us. We communicate  
so widely and not well  
our time should be known  
as the era of miscommunication  
rather than the Information Age.

## **Not Grateful**

Christians say  
that Jesus died for me.  
Given the chance,  
I'd have asked him not to.

## **Typology**

Two types coexist- the sanguine  
and exsanguinated.  
My skin is cool  
and pale as moonlight  
as I prowl the pre-dawn streets.  
You sleep, warmly hued,  
preparing for the vivid day.

## **Creating Purpose Where There Isn't Any**

The hours constrain our sense of time.  
If we were gods we wouldn't have hours.  
What's time to a god but something to fill  
with patterns beautiful or mischievous?  
Mischievous is a friend of beauty's and they  
pal around the palace without hours,  
unreliable servants of the timeless gods  
who need mortality as evidence of hierarchy.

## **Imitation N+1**

The universe expands

to fill the space  
it makes itself.  
It is its own definition  
and quite articulate.  
I'll mimic it in tiny ways.

