

Hispanic sonnet, or White names

A Black off-duty policeman told me,
“We christened our children White
Names so they’ll have equal chance.”
Wanted to ask him, But what happens
After the big reveal? Wanted to tell him,
But sir, the fickle gods will not save them.
Wanted to say, Word up, officer, that’s
Foolproof strategy. Me, I nodded &
Smiled. If you grew up fond of your
Name, perhaps this poem isn’t for you.
Perhaps on scientific levels everything’s
Connected & yet a most utopian
Expression is all-inclusive. As in:
If we each die alone, loneliness is all-inclusive.

Which it is. It is. And so slow dancing remains a dream.

— *Originally published via Dissident Voice*

Billboard

SERIOUS INJURY? on a billboard screams across
The clouded sky
Clouded sky screams through Adam Smith's
Megaphone
Adam Smith's megaphone threatens the promise of
Death
Death promising every day
Every day Death the banker
The Banker in his shiny blue suit
A man isn't made of much if
His suit shines, my grandfather said
Grandfather favored a denim jacket in his
Final days
Left me his jacket, which doesn't fit
Many things don't fit anymore
Time leaves me ill-suited
Checked my tongue this morning to see if
Español still lacks
But your master's in English, señor, it reminded
And English Literature, I nearly corrected
Today I bought Hemingway's
Death in the Afternoon at a
Used bookstore
I don't feel used one bit
Feeling and fact aren't the same, I heard Grandfather say
"I don't believe in ghosts," I spat back
Except this poem lolls upon the dead
Here's how you trap ghosts in 3 easy steps:
 Shut eyes
 Picture hate / love
 Embrace
At the gas pump earlier, the screen yakked at me
Reality vaguely disappointed
Returned home to find my tank less than empty
Only then did work begin
Marveling at birds screaming across
The beautifully clouded sky.

— Originally published via Pioneertown

Haiku on San Antonio small talk in the age of COVID-19

They don't know nothing.
Leave it to God. Hey, what time's
H-E-B open?

— *Originally published via Cuento Magazine*