

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Rob Plath: Three Poems

Rob Plath · Wednesday, November 18th, 2020

### a good raw poem

a good raw poem  
is much needed  
at times  
of literary freeze  
it's a zippo lighter  
flame on high  
beneath the frozen  
sack of black juice  
in yr torso  
it's a keg tap  
on yr spleen  
don't ever fucking knock  
the good raw poem  
one day when  
yr literary  
vision  
is full  
of cataracts  
you'll scream for  
the edge of  
a good raw poem  
to slide across  
yr corneas  
let some goddamn  
light in

\*

### the temper

once when i was eight  
my father was driving us  
to long beach to visit

some aunts and uncles

it was a hot june morning  
when we got to the town.  
my father stopped at a bakery  
to get a box of pastries

as we pulled away from the curb  
a man cut us off

my father zoomed thru cars  
to catch up to him  
he pulled right next to the man  
at a red light  
& asked my mother to roll  
the window all the way down  
then he screamed over her,  
“i’ve got kids in the backseat,  
you stupid fuck. i’ll get out  
& break yr fucking head  
open, you motherfucker!”  
the guy kept his head straight  
and didn’t look over

we were all silent

the light changed & my father  
punched the gas pedal  
& the car  
jumped forward

\*

## rattle

i read a bukowski letter where he said that  
he had 6 teeth extracted that same day  
one of them being a tough motherfucker to pull  
poor bukowski at 45, sitting at the rattling typewriter  
w/ 6 empty sockets like bullet holes screaming in his skull  
& tonight i imagine those half-dozen busted teeth  
i imagine cupping them in my palms & listening to the click  
of chips of bone as i shake them together  
i feel terrible pain & wonderful luck tonight, bukowski  
i feel the beautiful ancient roots in my hands

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