

Nature Loves Courage: A Pack of Haikus

Ben Brown



no.1

swiftly summer comes
cut down corporate disease
ending quarantine

no.8

I blame the Midwest
for the sad songs, smoke, and scars
and lots of lost love

no.12

the past is deathless
inherited; embracing
becoming present

no.18

you have lived your life;
now take whatever is left
and live properly

no.21

familiar daze—
breeding indifferences
wake repeat awake

no.35

ask yourself always,
'where am I going,' and then
do not wait, just go

no.43

how admirable
not to think 'life is fleeting,'
when lightning licks earth

no.56

touching the ceiling
with cold hands or a bumped head,
(re)minding my self

no.60

'Sorry, I mean it,'
the serpent meant when he said,
'Eat and be like God.'

no.67

find the rest of me
resting beneath heavy sheets,
down on the day off

no.71

emblematic of
indeterminate endpoints
like a swarm of bees

no.74

bounding images,
an effigy; oh, that's me—
dreaming of warm hands

no.80

believing in what?
birds, empty hands, Sisyphus
my toes in the grass

no.82

wet leaves on asphalt
expressing more than I said
bruised knees, a dog's bark

no.87

cast into the world
with every part in its place—
the 'givens' of life

no.91

when in doubt, become
a body-without-organs
or a pack of wolves

no.93

no walls, only fog—
we're unrehearsed and love is
a band, tribes at war