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## Neck of the World

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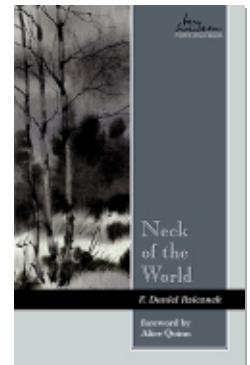
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## DUST MERCHANT

With each hammering gust  
of snow, the scales and thimbles  
shrink, and the hanging  
foot long folds of my skin shudder  
like robes. I may appear  
to have wings. I may look  
directly past you, remembering  
a sheer thigh of mountain  
I climbed, in search of an atom  
passed through a fish to a man  
to a fish—all within a speck  
of sand, and that's but one;  
the jars here stretch for acres,  
the innumerable grains of matter  
congregated in shelves, in rows.  
This house decides its own name.  
I may appear to wear glasses  
of steam. I may appear smaller  
than before, this weather  
arriving on time, my tomb torn  
open like the flesh of an orange.