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Neck of the World

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RAKER

The motorcycle meditates
in the neighbor's drive—silver
beyond the silver of fishes—
handles rising sexed
and armlike. I prowls my yard,
flannel replicating in miniature
the dimensions I tend and fence.
In fresh mulch, near the fort
of my shoe, ants weave
late circles. This morning
the glacier fluttered its tongues
again and I foresaw my children
bronzed in frostworn hollows,
my wife shining at the top,
arms silver and crossed,
centering her innards on herself.
But work stretches ahead of me:
many trees here stand dead,
the shrubs need to be pampered,
or showered in chemical spit.
Every fungal face will atrophy
into black suds and uselessness.
There has been a lurching
under the tarp of my skin
and though the glacier has ceased
its mutterings for now, it has slid
toward this country half
of a half of a hair. I cannot
conquer this thankfulness.