

## **Blackbird Haiku**

## Preface

The clarity of experience is alive. What you'll find in this small volume of small poems with small lines is a reminder that the tired maxim of keeping it simple is awake. The formal simplicity of haiku is neither jeopardized nor patronized by this book.

I have always admired the way haiku and very short poems have the ability to create snapshots that isolate direct experience: poems, which in essence, become their own experience in the mind of the reader. Damian Weber stays true to the emotion of common experiences that entail simply being somewhere and seeing, doing, thinking, or hearing something.

Throughout these haiku you will rarely find a line with only one possible interpretation. The poems are packed with the stuff that makes reading twice not only a compulsion but a pleasure.

*the poems are here now  
to be read, touched, felt, cleared through  
in this space right here*

-Aaron Lowinger

**Part One**  
**So Each Are To Each**

are the parts, blackbird  
the same, to wit, as such  
as flesh is to flesh

or, are they only  
not called parts, merely, but limbs  
organs or members

(one blackbird's black eye  
resembles any other's  
picked at or picked out)

verily, blackbird  
as the whole is to the whole  
so each are to each

yet, one might assert  
although sparrow had not eyes  
in the fullest sense

(for in point of fact  
he had no eyes visible)  
but remove the skin

and where they are found  
(or to the place where the eyes  
are so usually)

there the blackened parts  
were allowed to grow over  
into a hardness

man and their breathing  
(either on their bellies or  
on their bony backs)

furnished with two lungs  
still do not take in the air  
nearly everywhere

(having in themselves  
other dead parts belonging  
to other places)

or breathe openly  
so the complete mass of them  
comes to the belly

it varied in him  
(yet his had but already  
occurred in regard

and in relation  
to the exact threat they posed  
on his bleeding heart)

to the size, the shape  
the thickness or the thinness  
of a gaping hole

which made it now so  
he himself was cut open  
like everything else

the stomach or paunch  
(connected with him always  
and called companion)

made it in a knot  
(of about similar size  
as a wad of hate)

bigger than the gut  
of a wren or a fat hen  
(opened like the rest)

so what he would do  
after all came to the gut  
where all things belong

enter through the mouth  
(the way to the stomach hole)  
still somewhat narrow

but then it broadens  
(just where it communicates  
with the wide gizzard)

so when in the gut  
loosened out, simple and thin  
(a large hollow skin)

occupy the hole  
from one end to the other  
so wide and roomy

in some there's texture  
the flesh is firm (neither soft  
nor too lately dead)

some in abundance  
others in small quantity  
(pecked open and raw)

making teeth make do  
with animals whose parts are  
the way of excess

(they cut through to bone  
being then analogous  
to where the meat stops)

straight eyebrows are not  
a sign of complete softness  
of disposition

such as a slight curve  
in toward the nose, of harshness  
or dishonesty

(boding insolence  
indicating impudence  
and impertinence)

or even when they  
draw in toward on another  
that of jealousy

but, the eyes sometimes  
under our observation  
are inclined to wink

or, sometimes disposed  
to remain open, neither  
to wink nor to stare

still, the outer skin  
drawn aside from off the eye  
reveals a something

around the pupil  
like a thin ring of copper  
that gleams in the light

on toward the liver  
left toward the spleen and kidneys  
then right down the thigh

down along the knee  
to the shin and to the foot  
arrive at the sole

traced as one big line  
(not quite as was intended  
but a useful guide)

from there to the toes  
(where packets of blood are found)  
the last stretch, then out

separate sparrow  
into many ground up parts  
like a barley-meal

(parts alike in kind)  
for just as each nation-state  
is wont to reckon

by its own monies  
so must we do in matters  
in which we regard

in particular  
the chief parts in which sparrow  
was subdivided

for the fact is that  
to a very great extent  
many inner parts

still are yet unknown  
and so we must have recourse  
to examine close

all the inner parts  
of the other animals  
so when dissected

it's not the case that  
all internal characters  
resemble the dog

in particular  
there were found to be maggots  
living in the head

all in a cluster  
approximately about  
twenty in number

so their habitat  
was the hollow underneath  
the root of the tongue

in the neighborhood  
of the vertebrae to which  
the head was attached

very few of them  
gave from the full of the heart  
a good friendly word

(a neighborly bird)  
and no single one or two  
(like them or them who

keep civility)  
could live a life together  
each for each other

(only each for each)  
each living each for their own  
living off others

yet blood for instance  
of local disposition  
(serum, lard, seut

marrow, gall, and phlegm)  
has no final position  
such as have it flesh

but dry or raw bits  
(cartilage, sinew, bone, skin  
gristle, nail, vein, beak)

removed with care, still  
just make up more little parts  
out of the skinbag

**Part Two**  
**This Is Where Here Is**

“change the red water  
in your bleeding heart liberal  
for the green green grass”

“some get their living  
but for all that do not take  
either air or care”

so for the season  
we can relax now from your  
lawyers and meetings

house by house white trees  
up and down white tree lined streets  
lead to the white sky

“another red night  
came on to remind me still  
we are all suspect”

“it occurred to me  
perhaps living those years was  
not like being home”

see now how they are  
all the same as the same ones  
that are all the same

“I don't believe in  
this night, tonight, nothing is  
going to happen”

don't ask anymore  
anything about all that  
anyone could do

only to one day  
go quietly when they call  
you from out your hole

was there anything  
about that day hadn't been  
already figured

just exactly flesh  
somewhat of a sallow hue  
and otherworldly

like a leather strap  
having no flesh anywhere  
except a few scraps

“say hey red maple”  
blackbird said, “they say you got  
sap for sugaring”

so blackbird could do  
all you would have wanted from  
all you wanted done

they had him buying  
antibacterial soap  
and bottled water

blackbird stuck a stick  
saying this is where here is  
now this spot right here

don't forget all sky  
is just landscape but them clouds  
are his name in smoke

when the sun went out  
he watched the reds disappear  
then gave the all-clear

observe in the heart  
a hole where a bone is found  
inflated with air

“take and emit air  
as would be always the case  
with spending a day”

taking in the air  
he exhaled, thanking the lord  
said, “tag, you’re it god”

twist your eye around  
there won’t be anyone here  
in the wintertime

just give him a “hi”  
when you see your neighbor and  
look him in the eye

“many such struggles  
they still had yet to endure  
but for all of us”

stuck it in the chest  
then came down to the belly  
giving it a yank

“anyone here knows  
our history together  
has got blood in it”

right under the flesh  
right under the skin pigeon  
was made of square bits

when the sun went down  
then sparrow coughed the rest up  
and juice trickled out

take care to care for  
the spreaded out deaded parts  
still within the skin

blackbird you're not to  
go beyond the hill or past  
the blue of the lake

sparrow was open  
and his damn red fleshy heart  
looked like a berry

now sparrow's paid out  
spread over a round mile  
just for looking at

just passing above  
drove the sleeping chickadees  
from out of the trees

clearly sparrow sank  
sunk clear to the clear bottom  
clearing out his heart

"gather together  
keep most the blood in your heart  
and yours remember"

gobble up great chunks  
under the gut cavity  
more little square bits

don't see a squirrel  
out the corner of your eye  
thinking it's a ghost

all of these almos  
almost all the time leave me  
a frustrated mess

one for each other  
may be mistook as living  
one for another

“always remember  
your people and my people  
gather together”

seem to be devoid  
chew cud or hate in the blood  
with a gone feeling

when the day comes round  
follow the furrow he rolls  
as the sun a-rounds

some walk and some creep  
some wriggle but no creature  
is able to leave

lay in the daylight  
and make for yourself a hole  
to sleep in at night

springtime gardenbirds  
with material to build  
the perfect away

"I always knew I  
one day would associate  
myself with the wind"

there was no distinct  
or exact contained moment  
when the bleeding stopped

“so much for sparrow  
bringing forth his young alive  
to live in the world”

had blood only round  
his bleeding heart and seeping  
out his many holes

follow the great vein  
free and detached from the heart  
into open air

twist your eye around  
in a skin resembling  
a hollow recess

a deader dead bird  
to spill redder red water  
on hotter hot days

inspect all the parts  
for of their very nature  
they are almost you

always near cover  
away from sturdy fences  
or other cat-leaps

the brain was bloodless  
surreal, dry, devoid of veins  
and cold to the touch

however the gut  
is so bitter even hounds  
refuse to eat it

in less quantities  
there oozes out a fluid  
resembling gall

when you saw him last  
did you ask him then when you  
would see him again

on a barrel stand  
or shooting over the crop  
like a wary cop

“everyone but me  
can recall the past at will  
and have memories”

blackbird believed in  
all the stars and in nothing  
nearer than the moon

the old wooden drawers  
full of specimens look like  
an old museum

don't bother blackbird  
with that hot night long ago  
all those people died

bewildered with fright  
some can be susceptible  
and some have the hate

don't pass the daytime  
making equal use of both  
bowel and bladder

"too many believe"  
blackbird said, crossing his head  
"the struggle's over"

extend out your tongue  
those who are said to chew cud  
or hate in the blood

until the stomach  
issues forth from out your mouth  
like everything else

“but I was furnished  
with enmity the giver  
the rest as takers”

so holes in the gut  
make the only difference  
to holes in the gut

where in point of fact  
he assumed a greenish hue  
retained after death

blackbird was solely  
a casual casualty  
of causality

“on the contrary  
the eaten are equally  
with us as members”

keep going blackbird  
it helps to make the night look  
like we're all dreaming

he probably would  
had he returned to the scene  
have seen memories

blackbird's been purring  
from all of the attention  
blackbird's been getting

so not to adhere  
at one time to an object  
only to detach

"as a proof of which  
it is alleged your detachment  
increased all concern"

"doesn't have to have  
anything to do with me  
lying in the sun"

does the blood pour out  
in a stream like seawater  
out of a vessel

“take into account  
the days you are counting on  
one, two, three, four, five”

had yet to eat, ate  
to have been eating, eaten  
had yet to eaten

so they then could say  
(as previously was said)  
treat them all bloody

“irreverent talk  
indicates tendencies to  
twit or chit chatter”

some dwell under ground  
others live on the surface  
some live in the black

“nature’s a wonder  
that the ear is constructed  
like a trumpet-shell”

“he hadn’t a nose  
only little passages  
for the sensation”

**Part Three**  
**History of Animals**

the coming  
around  
looks down

a reason  
to wonder  
crawls in under

thinning  
out a lore  
for use

become  
so swollen  
inside

on that  
hot corner  
it was produced

where the people  
or other dry millet  
get wet and moldy

with so  
not a sound  
talky

there's always  
one the  
same one

habits  
in actions  
performed

another you  
another me, we're just  
one to another

then wait  
so you  
know

heavy pooled  
redder red  
water bags

to control  
the breeze  
the wind blows

greater  
in the greater, lesser  
in the lesser

where  
all bleeding  
starts

the end  
left from  
another

seem not  
out toward  
others

habitate  
a little  
vein

chiefly  
constitute  
nature

bone, hair, nails  
sinew, parts related  
to the chew

don't submit  
others are  
subject

numerous  
other creatures  
are every one

serve me  
in some way  
character

at first live in  
and by your change  
live out of water

nutritious birdfeed  
for your table or feeding  
for your meat filled mind

when subject  
to ill usage  
have means

just under  
his intention  
it digested

have memory  
and be capable  
of instruction

the same  
clear meaning  
above all others

we may observe  
in passing  
existence

frequent  
the abodes  
of men

the tongue  
is loosely hung of those  
who mumble please

in respect  
to the material  
universe

others  
engender  
their interior

much  
same for  
the same

those who  
imagine are  
led in error

have hate  
and be  
cloven-footed

at one  
and one  
to another

it appears  
your inner organs  
are left out of you

inside  
a strong skin  
the fleshy part

the connected  
similarly  
lie in the same

mistaken  
might be taken  
as mercy

the exact emotion  
when allowing  
blood, the self

for use  
subject to  
depredation

may be easier  
to protect  
field corn

grow  
in standing  
water

improve  
for others  
more desirable

all these studies  
appear to be  
supposing

features  
present the  
uniqueness

productivity  
renamed creativity  
from the infinite

quite a number  
of novel messages  
can be sent

you're still  
complaining  
down in the log

the people  
always more  
than you

so situated  
separately  
by yourself

it is all  
lodged in  
the veins

blood  
appears  
primitive

be separate  
but all  
together

from all  
other from  
one another

provided with  
these organs, furnished  
with these parts

say what else it is  
whereas it is not  
just exactly flesh

all birds  
blink  
by

then black  
not unlike  
the body alike

meet me  
we together  
under

you  
are covered  
with scaly plates

derived from  
the skin derived  
from the bones

organs  
common  
to all

connected  
with the great  
extending off

due to  
natural  
causes

many  
organ  
parts

but  
bode some  
mischief

each of us  
lies at the end  
of a little vein

the bloodless  
creature  
to be seen

all  
can be  
susceptible

feed on  
a peculiar  
diet