

# Year End Closeout: Buy One, Get Seven Free.

*by* Gary Hardaway

## **Lunar Cycle**

A waxing moon  
with first a bright  
sliver of silver  
after the black  
and then a slice,  
and then a half,  
and soon enough  
a whole moon pie of light  
and then the waning,  
the withering, back  
to the dark of the new.

## **The Burden of Scribes**

If we were painters it would be fine  
to paint and paint again  
the same haystack,  
altering the light or time of day,  
perhaps the angle of site, or season.

But-- no. We write. And nothing is  
more obviously a bore  
or madness (in words)  
than the same experience repeated  
with a subtle change of vision.

## **Penis Envy**

<http://miscreantmagazine.com/>

## **December and Damp**

It's not that cold but the cold that is  
penetrates layered cloth and soft skin  
to chill the blood in its capillaries  
and the morning's best intentions.  
Coffee can't quite beat back the wish  
to simply lie still and wait for spring.

## **Do not pray for me**

<http://miscreantmagazine.com/>

## **Peshawar**

<http://miscreantmagazine.com/>

## **Telecom Christmas**

The server farms are busy this Christmas Day--  
a snow of offers falls from the Cloud:  
burial insurance, private jets for rent, sexy  
Colombians, sexy Russians, sexy Asians,  
Nigerian princes with hordes of cash in my name  
just waiting for my proof of identity and account numbers.  
All is calm and all is bright and all is buzzing,  
just for me, this warm and windy Christmas Day.

## **Cigarette Beside the Pool, Christmas Day**

A windy Christmas and warm it is even  
by our Texas Christmas standard. A few  
high white clouds decorate  
the infinitive seeming blue of sky bright with sun.  
A murder of crows caw their territory  
from spindly upper branches of the naked  
mulberry tree northeast across the alley.  
A sad Sargasso sea of dung brown  
oak leaves undulates with gusts of wind  
across the unreal aquamarine of chlorinated  
swimming water. No laps today  
despite the sun and warmth. And soon, a festival  
to host when savory and sweet are cooked  
and ready for the smiles and clinks of glasses.

