

# Gaza Suite

*by Gary Hardaway*

## **Asymmetrical**

The natural world can irritate—  
a red wasp's sting, the bite of a flea,  
the afternoon sun in your eyes  
when you must travel west.

It takes the human world, though,  
to really piss you off  
or drive you into exile out of fear.

## **Here Lately**

Hope's feathered wings are caught  
and pinned by talons of the hawk.  
Her flutters and cries go unnoticed  
so enamored are we all of the hook-  
beaked predator's cunning prowess.

## **Collateral Damage**

The building intends  
no harm. It intends only our  
protection, comfort, and prosperity.

The young dove  
chases the grasshopper  
into the high glass of the north wall.

It squats now

on the concrete drive,  
stunned, with rapid, shallow breath.

Incapable of anything  
but pity, we watch and wait  
for it to either fly away or die.

### **Sustainable Sacrifice**

Tender bodies sizzle on the grill.  
Gods feast well on succulent children  
offered up by men assured that, should  
supplies run low, new ones can be quickly  
made to keep divinities fulfilled.

