

Peppercorns

by Gary Hardaway

Free Will!

The will is free.
Everything else is extra.
Food and fashion- extra.
Hearth and house- extra.
Spouse and offspring- extra.
If all the extras get to be too much,
cut back.
Too much, still?
Cut back again.
If you cut and cut
and it's still too much,
opt out.
Remember- the will is always free.

Table for One, Easter Morning

Time expunges sex
and leaves you only gender.
Distinguishing organs
shrink and dry,
identifiable
though vestigial.
Fertile bodies eye
the space you occupy,
impatient for disappearance.

Asocial Drinker

To drink alone is never fun.
It just exacerbates "alone"
and leaves the wits
in cabernet stains
on the off-white carpet.

True Colors

The official hues of Texas
are red, white and blue,
like the lone star flag.
How very hopeful and French.

The true hues of Texas, though
run the full range of one-
from aged bone beige
to deep shit brown.

The View from Mt. Olympus Goes on Forever

I am diseased
like everyone doing time-

all of us sentenced
to time and dying.

The timeless no doubt
find us all amusing

with our morning jogs
and antioxidants

our memorial parks
and term life policies

spiced with double indemnity
against an accidental death.

