

# Precipitants

*by Gary Hardaway*

## **The Upside of Evil**

If human beings  
were any damn good  
we wouldn't have literature.

## **Exhortation on the Sea of Postliteracy**

Cling to the lifebuoy of language  
even as the buoy takes on water  
and you sink below the waves  
into the abyss of anachronism.

## **Rhetorical Advice**

It can't be "Black".  
Make it Anthracite,  
Obsidian, or Shadow.  
Something that glimmers  
its opacity— nothing so  
pedestrian as black.

## **The Newest Mop Is No Defense Against the Sediments**

Whatever ingenious device they hawk,  
we'll never win  
the ongoing battle with dirt.  
It will bury us.

## **Cross Town**

The watched watch  
dominates the lives  
of regulated men  
who know

when the shift ends

there's very little time  
to drive crosstown  
and be on time  
for the second shift.

