

## The Coward

Cowards are made not born  
by their fathers or mothers  
or siblings or others  
or that ubiquitous, overwhelming  
glove we wriggle in  
our culture, our institutions, our world  
and then there are those of us  
whose volatile biochemistries  
blow away our filters and armor  
leaving to the mercy of life  
our bare, quivering nerve endings

Not he is the coward  
who balks at beauty  
nor forbears the fight  
nor refrains to bend the knee  
to our great modern gods  
of money, career and corporate might  
nor he who forswears  
allopathy, technocracy, pharmacology  
or branding, marketing and sales  
nor he who fails at social media  
or family planning  
or the acquisition of real property

No, the true coward is he who  
continually gives his power away  
and yet again  
and yet again  
and yet again  
fails to seize the day