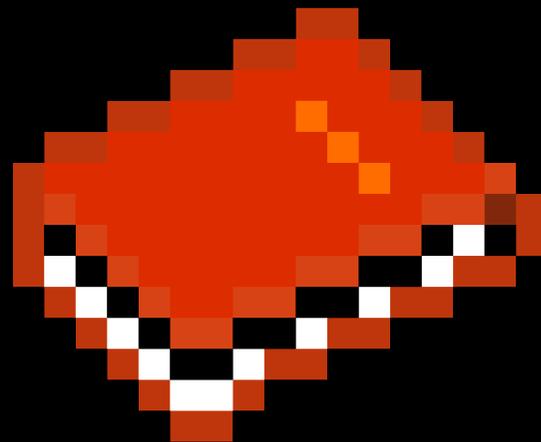


UNTITLED SONNETS

BY PATRICK BLAGRAVE



Neruda said *you can cut all the flowers*
but you cannot keep spring from coming
but the season gets shorter every year.
Sometimes the daffodils will die before
anybody has the chance to see them.
Their genes have been patented by DuPont.
Governments have sold the rights to weather
to some oil & gas executives.
They are scheming at HAARP to make it so
the earth will become an endless golf course.
The sun goes on aging invisibly.
The earth will become an endless ocean.
It happened before. Whether we see it
or not the next spring will be beautiful.



2.

College courses are taught in what was once
the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory where
in a fire 100 years earlier
146 people were killed—
mostly women, immigrants, teenagers.
The owners kept the doors locked to prevent
unscheduled breaks. The foreman with keys saved
himself before thinking to unlock them.
The owners were put on trial & escaped
consequences. They opened more factories.
They profited off the insurance claims.
They kept locking doors. In these same rooms
I was trained how to be above all else
a good worker, how to ignore the ghosts.

3.

A modern Job, a balancing act by
higher powers constantly pushing you
ever closer to despair, to the point
just before you lose faith in the system
they devised. If you lose, lose everything:
health insurance if you had it then health
naturally, your home, your friends & loved ones.
You can sit in the ash when it settles
& curse the gods who sit behind closed doors
& decide your future for you. Wail proof
that you exist but they already know--
you're not forsaken, they found a new use.
Detail your disaster on their forms. Ask
for their pity; pity might be enough.

