

# Suburban Poems

## Suburban Aphorisms

It's easier to change the past than the future.

You are the people you don't think you are.

Someone who is not you stares at someone who is not you.

Nostalgia yields to a barely ironic imitation of the past.

It's always a tribute to tribute.

We live in the gap between contentment and despair. Wait, I mean between barbecues and scrimmages.

There's always Halloween. Actually, it's always Halloween.

It's not for trying.

All our prophets have amnesia.

Always, lights across the woods.

A song bird, a recusal.

What would Guy Debord say about your lawn?

We always know what time it is.

A land of nothing but pockets.

We flinched when the bandleader said "Here's an old one: it's called 'An Expression of Grief.'"

Standing on the bare ground, my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space, all mean egotism vanishes. I become a human cable box; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or particle of God.

## **Vacation**

In the house by the beach, a painting of the house by the beach. Laughing gulls so present as to be invisible among the tourist flesh. The songs take too long, a bad mix so we ride waves. An island is a hole in a presence we deny. Integral of afternoon, game buzz from an antiquated radio. Name what is passing. Eleven birds and no acknowledgements.

## **Things Learned at the Campfire**

We pay for less and dirt. Bears sometimes wear ties. The chief call of wood is irrelevance. Always meat or another, the linchpin of pancakes. The elder statesmen refuse and assert sagely as they wander the lot looking for their cars. Relenting, they swim to Pennsylvania. Money is a way of keeping score.

## **FAQ**

Q. What's your return policy?

A. We hope you're happy! We guarantee to refund unworn or unwashed items when you return it in sellable condition, with the original receipt and packaging, within 60 days of purchase. In the idea of the return, every purchase, even the most recent, becomes the legacy of another purchase. This is an attempt to reconcile the mutually contradictory tendencies of desire: that of repetition and that of eternity. The idea of return appears precisely as that shallow rationalism which the belief in progress is accused of being, while faith in progress seems no less to belong to the mythic mode of thought than does the eternal return. In the interest of hygiene, earrings, cosmetics and underwear may not be refunded or exchanged at any time.