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Tattooed

David Sparenberg

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Tattooed

TATTOOED

by

David Sparenberg

I carry the world
and the biography of history
tattooed into my soul.

I carry images of wars,
the nightmare horrors
of suffering and shame: blood
spilling into my eyes.

I carry the images of love,
the aesthetics of union
and the beauty of two women - one
for the daylight of ascending sun,
one for the night time
of dreaming moon.

I am tattooed
with the birthdays of life and death,
with memorials of children
growing from seed,
with the cycles of many seasons
and all my relations.

I am tattooed
with road signs and footsteps
of red path earthwalks
and the waste of whirlwind
and rattling thorns.

My soul is inscribed
with the constitution
of my immortality,
by this hand of experience
and with a prayer
from the breath of God.