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## The Distance between Shadow and Hour

Judson Simmons

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# The Distance between Shadow and Hour

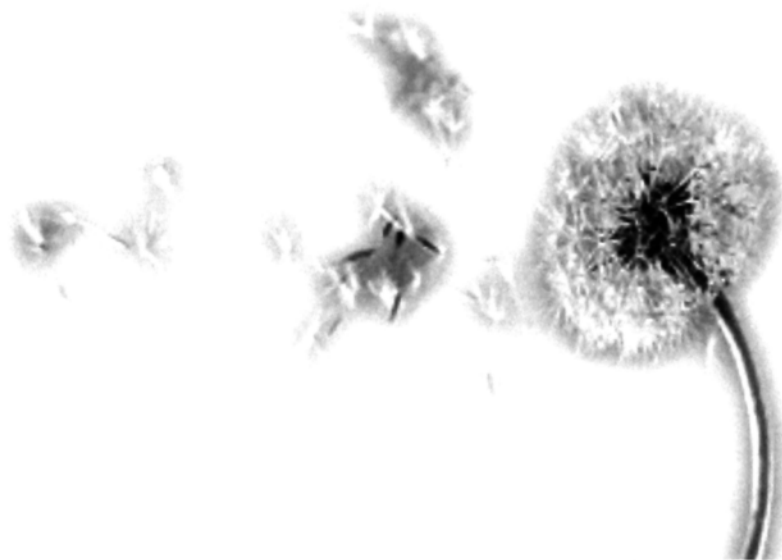
by Judson Simmons

Everything we ever thought  
we'd forgotten, is waiting here—  
parked at the end of the universe.

The dandelion's candescent teardrops  
blown to the wind, each last sip  
poured out, or the conscious honks  
which press against back bumpers—  
they pass through the heat, begin  
a slow ascent from the earth.

Crisscross clipped hair, swept away  
and settled against the cool floor  
of a barbershop, the floors painted  
by slanted shadows. A shudder.  
A tremble—like a child caught  
in late autumn downpour—just try

to remember that first smile  
which broke a hush and calm.  
Those outstretched arms shifting  
towards dusk or that slight part  
between neck and hairline—  
followed by bursts like sudden embraces.



*Photo by Benjamin Cummings*

