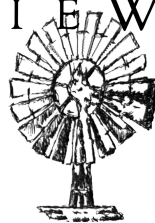


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What We Have Lost

Ken Hada

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SWOSUTM

What We Have Lost

by Ken Hada

What we have lost
lives only in memory,
in longings for
the wilder days before greed
overran us,
before time became madness,
before living
became a sales job, before
our vain scrambling
devoured us, before we
paraded our
chicanery for the world
to bear witness
to our suicidal march.

What we have lost
is not recoverable
despite naive
optimism that proclaims
a virtual
reality based on new
technologies
that build illusionary
economies
spurred by willful ignorance
of nature's truth,
our hubris that promises
us new frontiers
and endless resources just
around the bend.

What we have lost
is a shirtless sun-tanned boy
standing knee-deep
midstream holding a cane pole
with swaying line
reaching into a swirling
maroon eddy
as sundown descends over
graying green hills
secluded in transient air.

What we have lost
is the possibility
that something else
other than human frailty
motivates us.

