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## Baling Wire

Stephen Roberts

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# Baling Wire

*by Stephen Roberts*

Consider the intricacies of baling wire.  
The myriad of applications, the tensile strength,  
the knotted obstinacy of the smallest spirals,  
the dogged, unavoidable sound of steel wrapped  
on steel or anything requiring assistance  
to hold itself together.  
The exhaust on the car broke.

I am on my back twisted to a contortion  
only wire should be afforded.  
The sound of my knuckles scraping  
weakens my grip as the inevitable slip  
of hand and tool happens. Blood smears  
and mingles with the rust of a dying muffler.

Wire undulates its metallic flexibility  
as a tourniquet rises and coils  
in perfect sequence around my wrist.  
Memory slowly tightens  
with each dream-like revolution.

Think of it as temporary.  
An emergency situation remedied securely.  
I move on to other things.  
There is so much so near to breaking.

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