

January 6, 2021: In the Heat of the Moment

Swarming in my brain like angry bees
images of a mob, men and women I thought I knew,
now members of a cult, waving flags of fear,
harbingers of hate, I am outraged by
blatant displays of fascism. Like members
of congress, when I was ten,
I hid beneath my desk in fear
of the atomic bomb...I remember...I remember...

This day, what has been hidden deep
within the hive, has exploded,
the dissonance plays out in acts of rage,
uncontrollable displays by my fellow Americans.
I want to take them by their shoulders and shake them:
What is wrong with you?
How could you be so swayed,
How can you be so blind to the truth?"

I gaze at the screen with trepidation
watching the volatile polarity play out.
I call friends, write with poets, consult
with neighbors...we can no longer sit
wrapped in our cocoons of safety,
...the threat to our democracy rages.
These bees have fled the hive...
we see their faces on the news,
we know and recognize them,
they swarm around a queen who misleads them
with hate, misdirection, fear, misinformation.
They are forming their own hive
caught in the branches of a tree of bigotry.

We who believe in the principles
of this country, we who believe in
the rights and equality of all men,
In this moment, we must be compelled to stand up...
To bravely root for democracy.
We are the watch dogs of the future.
Answer hate with humanity,
fear with hope,
dissonance with sweet songs of freedom.