

At Peace in the Path of Resistance
by Ellaraine Lockie

At Peace in the Path of Resistance

Why morbid any more than birth
this digestion of death
Being born an obsession
out of the question
because it can't be seen coming

There's no open casket for the nonexistent
No four-year old assemblage of air
entrained to her grandfather's coffin
to kiss the cold-glazed cheek good-bye
No Sunday crucifixion sermons
or pet parakeets found in rigor mortis
Media murder melodramas
Or obituary columns
Daily reminders that death
could happen to anyone at any time
Yet the forerunners are silenced
Sublimated into fears that ferment
to obstruct the flow of life
Or muted with a morose label
when someone postures
the proclaimers as a gift

A laxative for living out loud
without whispers or euphemisms
Sonorous to select memorial service music
Sojourn a cemetery plot
and design the gravestone

Taking posthumous control
in humble ways while she can

Because death is a dictator
and will choose its own demeanor
Whether it will wear a blood-soaked shroud
Its bearer brandishing knife, gun, auto
or the tattered rag of old age
Or nakedly water-swamp the lungs
like her Uncle Otto's in the Missouri River

And if it runs in the family
will she survive the upcoming cruise
with her cancer-consumed brother
Instead of succumbing in sleep apnea serenity
Her preferred rite of passage
As if option of time, place and type
could be managed any more
than contractions that maneuver the birth canal

Ellaraine Lockie is a widely published and awarded poet, nonfiction book author and essayist. Her recent work has been awarded Best Individual Collection from *Purple Patch* magazine in England for *Stroking David's Leg*, the San Gabriel Poetry Festival Chapbook Contest Prize winner for *Red for the Funeral* and *The Aureorean's* Chapbook Pick for Spring, 2012 for *Wild as in Familiar*. Forthcoming is her tenth chapbook, *Coffee House Confessions*, from Silver Birch Press. Ellaraine teaches poetry workshops and

serves as Poetry Editor for the lifestyles magazine,
Lilipoh.