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A Raven Funeral

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A Raven Funeral

In the white hills above my cabin
I come upon a mystery. A hundred ravens,

little black-robed priests, circle a small field,
sitting in trees cawing at the center

where a raven lies dead in the snow. As if
by signal, they stop and fly away,

leaving an uninvited guest
standing in the silence of their wake.

John Smelcer

JOHN SMELCER is the author of 50 books, including his poetry books *Indian Giver* (Leapfrog, 2016) and *Raven* (Leapfrog, 2019).