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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*

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