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## The Veil

Wally Swist

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## The Veil

High blue September sky, the trail around the mountain, morning	a red-tailed hawk on an oak branch, wary but content,
leaf shadows on scree, remnants of an abandoned sugar shack,	undaunted by my presence. He swivels his head
burnt scent of autumn drifting, leaf-edges not quite	side to side, blinks his golden corneas, his piercing
color-tinged. Shadow of the mountain's south face: a grove white	black pupils. Breast feathers white like the boneset,
with boneset, more boneset than I have ever seen, flowerheads dense above	flecked with rust. I stand beneath, part of this wild veil,
lance-shaped leaves, brightness fired by their own petals. Above	drift away dazed, that sweet glimmering a memory to fill the years.

Wally Swist

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WALLY SWIST's books include *The Daodejing: A New Interpretation*, with David Breeden and Steven Schroeder (Lamar University Literary Press, 2015), and *Candling the Eggs* (Shanti Arts, LLC, 2017). Swist's new books are *The Map of Eternity* (Shanti Arts, LLC, 2018), *Singing for Nothing: Selected Nonfiction as Literary Memoir* (The Operating System, 2018), and *On Beauty: Essays, Reviews, Fiction, and Plays* (Adelaide Books, 2018). He won the 2018 Ex Ophidia Press Poetry Prize for *A Bird Who Seems to Know Me: Poems Regarding Birds & Nature* (Ex Ophidia Press, 2019).