

I Did Not Know Him

Brutally murdered,
Matthew Shepard is dead

I did not know him.

So why are the black-raven beaks
breaking through the soft tissue
of my distended belly in search
of my entrails?

So why does the slow, maggot motion
within my brain devour my ideas
and destroy my ability
to understand?

So why are my legs melting
like uncontrolled lava flows and my feet
dissolving into steaming puddles
of acidic anger?

So why have the eagle's claws
encircled my eyeballs in vicious vices,
squeezing them cruelly
into frightening blindness?

I did not know him.

—C. F. Kelly