

# I Did Not Know Him

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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