

## Halvard Johnson

### Today's Prayer

Just read your last, so let's just agree to disagree on all that. While taking a nap, it occurred to me that all that was what we'd already agreed to disagree on/about/whatever. Rain or snow, whichever comes first. I'd rather you stated your preferences more robustly. Please be so kind as to do so. Frozen snap peas fall from airplanes overhead. I can prove it by the bump on my head. Next round's on me. World without end. Amen.

### Sonnetto Incognito

If one reads without worrying, it's utterly gorgeous. The sort of gorgeousness one expects from high-end trade publishers. The right vehicle for the right job--that's what we need to keep in mind, no matter

what. Done as well as humans do it, small wonders come down the pike, one after another. Systematically changing one's perspectives until some final arrangement is suddenly arrived at when we least expect it.

I think of Robert Merrill's Escamillo and shivers run down my back. Divergent impulses--yoking them together. Decisive moments we sometimes live to regret.

*Halvard Johnson has had several residency grants at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and a poetry fellowship at the Ragdale Foundation. Four collections of poetry—Transparencies and Projections, The Dance of the Red Swan, Eclipse, and Winter Journey—from New Rivers Press are out of print and now are archived at the Contemporary American Poetry Archives <http://capa.conncoll.edu>. Recent collections include Rapsodie espagnole, G(e)nome, The Sonnet Project, Theory of Harmony—all from [www.xpressed.org](http://www.xpressed.org)—and The English Lesson, from Unicorn Press in Bryan,*

*Texas. A new poetry collection called Guide to the Tokyo Subway is just out from Hamilton Stone Editions. He lives in New York City.*