

“Untitled”, by David Swartz

An old man
with a small voice
and a long trail of journeys
into the history of hopes
dragging behind
shaved off his wrinkles
and walked into the future bakery
where he saw your sparkling eyes.

To himself:
I was searching wild
for the present time
where the long spent past
finds the doorway to the future
opened wide,
and I found it right here
right now
in a waking vision
of a life saving smile
from out the portals
of your gracious soul
that filled my heart
with the momentary joy
of present bliss:
perpetual and eternal
is a moment like this!

Originally from Toronto, Canada, David has resided in Lisbon, Portugal since 2013, where he teaches English at the New University of Lisbon (NOVA). Concurrently, David is writing a PhD thesis at NOVA on Shakespeare's Sonnets. He has recently completed a translation of Nuno Júdice's 1982 novel *A Manta Religiosa* which will be published by New Meridian Arts in March, 2020. He has kindly contributed to *The Grove* on request of the Editor with the above poem.