

DAVID SWARTZ

Journey to Nowhere

The Grove 26 (2019)

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 search wild
for the present time
where the long spent past
finds the door-way
to the future
open'd wide;
and I found it
right here, right now
in a waking vision
of a lifesaving 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!

Nowhere is a word which normally describes being lost. But *nowhere* can also be thought of as a kind of homeland or promised land, an authorial utopia of presence and immediacy, a non-place in which infinite conjunctive possibilities hang from the tree of the impossible. *Nowhere* gives hope to the lost postulates, has no determined body, no termination. Nowhere eschews then and there and affirms now and here, generates the future and the past yet remains forever present.

David Swartz is a young scholar, Masters Degrees in Comparative Literature (The University of Toronto) and Painting (The University of Lisbon). He is currently writing a PhD Thesis on Shakespeare's Sonnets at the Universidade NOVA de Lisboa. His recent translations include *The Religious Mantle* (New Meridian Arts, 2020), and *And Painting: Questioning Contemporary Painting* (CIEBA-FBAUL, 2016). His unpublished poems are of taut and inquisitive quality which bear witness to the existential uncertainty of human life in a credible metaphysical dimension as can be seen in his contribution to the 26 issue and the present one as well.