

Thirteen Ways of Looking at Your Ego
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1.

Icy pineapple clung to my gums
Stuck in crevices between my teeth
as I looked at you.

2.

Your teeth were sterile and silver
Like the fist we would catch and clean and
Polish to perfection
as you spat words in my face,
stinging my ears and eyes

3.

Before this you were beautiful
Before this you were correct
Then the winter crept upon us and it changed.

4.

If you were right
I was wrong
If you were wrong
I went down with you.

5.

That was summer
Downhill was autumn
Winter was a pit

6.

I was like a flimsy leaf in autumn
after being dropped to the sidewalk
My methods of transportation were
by being kicked along,
tearing and collapsing in the process

7.

You were like the wind
Invisible but
present, whipping away wherever you wanted
stumbling across me and pushing
me, the leaf, forward

8.

You were a wall
wrapped around my life
Protection via isolation

9.

I turned into a marble
Dense, willing to roll anywhere

10.

Your ego made my eyes
see again

11.

I tried to roll the other direction
but I was duct-taped in a rut,
the stench of over-ripe readiness rotting upon me.
Going upward was impossible.

12.

Our worlds got flipped upside-down,
a rusty hourglass finally shifting
Gravity reversed

13.

I tumbled to the top.
You sank your claws in the bottom,
your domain.