

## Axis Through the Center of the Earth

he's about four, maybe four-and-a-half, this little boy  
elfin frame propped on a gaudy gold-and-white carousel horse  
mom smiling bravely on the perimeter  
crushing hubby's hand, he of the dad-proud smile

what are his thoughts:

- *how fast does this go?*
- *can that big heavy thing break?*
- *what if I fall off?*
- *will it hurt?*

legs draped over polished flanks, slender hips rocking,  
thighs loose, shoulders swaying, neck on a swivel —  
all systems are on auto-pilot  
*except:*  
his handhold

arms thrust forward, he locks fingers around the carousel pole  
trusting absolutely in the irreducible fastness  
of this lifeline, this anchor, this mainstay  
this imperishable constant  
forged, as he conceives it, in the very cradle of the universe  
persisting through space, time, galaxies, eons  
securing structure, apparatus, steed, decking,  
foundation, mantle, core . . .

the gracile hands dare not let slip this tether  
*willing* its security, *daring* its constancy

gripping, daring, trusting  
believing with the indomitable vulnerability of innocence  
he locks on to this spar  
holding on to it for all he and the world are worth

## Daybreak: Arizona

daylight breaking  
mesa waking  
terra baking  
lizard faking

horizon glowing  
dawnstreaks showing  
saguaro growing  
farmer sowing

copper mining  
fossil finding  
eastward blinding  
daystar shining

shadows fade  
retreating shade  
renegade  
yucca blade

sunbaked rills  
crested hills  
nightowl trills  
test of wills

burro trusty  
footfalls dusty  
ore load rusty  
skyhawk lusty

eagle's eye  
coyote's cry  
sunburnt, dry  
stunning sky

expectation  
anticipation  
revelation

exhilaration —

cruising the two-lane, straight-on glare  
orb tops horizon: day now begun  
mundane morning plays out somewhere  
not here

Arizona – hungry hawk eye  
Arizona – gilded crimson  
Arizona – gaudy palette  
desert daybreak crazy gorgeous