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ANOTHER DIMENSION

The Same Air

AI Zolynas

—for Guy Murchie, *The Seven Mysteries of Life*

The same air
 that moves
 through me and you
 through the waving branches
 of the bronchial tree
 through veins
 through the heart
 the same air
 that fills balloons
 that carries voices
 full of lies and truths
 and half-truths
 that holds up the wings of butterflies
 humming birds eagles hang gliders 747s
 the same air
 that sits like a dull relative
 on humid lakes
 in Minnesota in summer
 the same air
 trapped in vintage champagne
 in old bicycle tires lost tennis balls
 the air inside a vial in a sarcophagus
 in a tomb in a pyramid
 buried beneath the sand
 the same air

inside your freezer
 wrapping its cold arms
 around your t.v. dinners
 the same air that supports you
 that supports me
 the same air that moves through us
 that we move through
 the same air frogs croak with
 cattle bellow with
 monks meditate with and on
 the same air we moan with
 in pleasure or in pain
 the breath I'm taking now
 will be in China in two weeks
 my lungs have passed an atom
 of oxygen that passed through the lungs
 of Socrates or Plato
 or Lao-tsu or Buddha
 or Walt Disney or Ronald Reagan
 or a starving child in Somalia
 or certainly you
 you right here right now
 yes certainly you
 the same air
 the very same air

Zolynas' books include *The New Physics*, Wesleyan University Press, 1979; *Under Ideal Conditions*, Laterthanever Press, 1994 (San Diego Book Award, Best Poetry, 1994); and *The Same Air*, Intercultural Studies Forum, 1997. Seven of his poems were recently featured in the movie *Fighting Words* (Indican Pictures, Los Angeles, 2007). A long-time Zen practitioner, he teaches at Alliant International University, San Diego, California, and lives with his wife in Escondido, California.