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Segue is published once a year in August. We accept submissions via email of high quality fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction between January 1 and April 30 (closed May through December), and writing about writing year-round. Before submitting, please read past issues to understand the sort of work we publish, then read our submission guidelines.

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Days in Pattaya

—Thailand, 2013

On aching hot days, I pray for cool dusk
band of orange across the western sky
rising moon, planets, stars
each an old acquaintance—silent, serene

Come sunset, as thirsty mozzies swarm
as motorbikes buzz, I dream of dawn
band of orange across the eastern sky
smooth beach bare of night

Mornings, sizzling like a plate of eggs
I pray again for dusk—all its disappointments
my monkey mind cannot sit still, cannot
find satisfaction in a cup of tea

Day by day, I plant no purpose here
only pen and paper, only hope
a garden might bloom, leaves full of fruit
a summer flower bending toward the fall
Author Notes

Jota Boombaba, when not on the road, writes poetry in and around San Francisco, where he lives and explores with his son.

About the Work

In July, 2013, I spent a few weeks in a seaside town in southeast Thailand, a place I’d never been before, hoping that all its unfamiliar surroundings would inspire some new poems. What I discovered on that hot and humid beach was that I am rarely satisfied with the way things are. I am always craving something else, something more, something new. That very discovery inspired “Days in Pattaya.”

I suppose I have the same experience when writing a poem: I’m never quite satisfied with a draft, which keeps me revising over and over, at least until a poem is accepted for publication. At that point, with that editorial acceptance, I consider a poem complete, at least for the time being.

The older I get, the closer I get to death and the further I get from birth, the more I see my life as one long poem—never quite satisfactory, never quite what I had in mind, always open to revision, even when admired and applauded by others.