

gender bender

by Tommi Avicolti Mecca

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I've become what you
fear the most
a big bad wolf
standing outside
your house of cards
the binary that binds
you like constipation
or a straightjacket
I'm not an enigma
I'm an oracle
only it's not deities
I converse with
I'm as ancient as
language
as mystic as music
you think I'm an
abomination
but I'm the mosquito
buzzing in your ear
the dream you
pretend you don't
remember
the rose you
won't let open

cop kicking a homeless man

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the cop kicked him
he kicked a homeless man
sleeping on the cold cement
no blanket
no shopping cart
no bags
nothing but the clothes
on his back
a half empty water bottle
and a styrofoam take out
carrier with noodles
the cop's partner stood
beside him looking bored
as she checked her phone
the drinkers drank in the
nearby bar
their laughter spilled out
onto the street
the people crossing the
intersection never glanced
at the cop kicking
a homeless man
who jumped up and
raced for the train that
had just pulled up
door shutting behind him
it being Veterans Day
I had to wonder if the man
the homeless man
was a vet
not that it would matter
to a cop who kicked a man
a homeless man
to wake him up
from his cold cement bed
no blanket
no shopping cart
nothing but the clothes
on his back