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R. LEIGH KRAFFT

aversion

it becomes a dance, this
evasion.
I am so sure that two cannot be one.
it is an emotional impossibility.
you scowl and tromp down the hall
completing household tasks
with such utter bitterness
that the air reeks, becomes rancid
all because
I want to delve into
that deep spiritual self that needs to create
and not your loins.
I am sorry
if I cannot find
my desire for you, I cannot force it
into existence out of sheer will
but I do my duty,
gritting my teeth and fixing my stare inward,
thinking through the events of the day
or what I will need to do tomorrow,
laundry, dishes, dinner.
I cannot give you
this phantom child you seek
when I am not interested
in the begetting.
I cannot give you the hand-holding, the embrace,
the passionate kisses,
when I am not interested in our togetherness.
can you not let me go, now?
I really need to be
elsewhere.
anywhere
but
here.

R. Leigh Krafft's poetry appears earlier in this volume.