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## PATIENCE WHEATLEY

### Evasions

Your friend  
the psychologist reproves you  
for not wanting to live beside  
the prison –  
you explain that at Versailles  
you felt a terrible sadness

as if the misery of Marie Antoinette  
(whose portrait  
painted when she was only thirty-eight  
was of an old woman)  
had sunk into the rectangular  
stones, the glossy floors, even  
the flower beds in geometric patterns  
of scarlet, purple, white  
not less because it was a queen's despair –

and if Marie Antoinette didn't understand  
why she was hated  
nor does the imprisoned terrorist  
who tell us his crimes are our fault.

Your friend  
the psychologist  
doesn't mind your avoiding Versailles:  
it's far away in France  
and only history.

*Patience Wheatley has had two collections of poetry published by Goose Lane Editions and lives in Kingston, Ontario.*

## KAREN DELL KINNISON

### Driftwood

I let you go a little bit today  
like loosening a twine rope.  
My wood barrel heart floated out,  
not far, wobbling on the waves.  
When it reached the boundary of its passion,  
(which is infinite), it pulled taut,  
back into this definite love  
that is like an ending.  
This love is gravity force or magnetic want.  
My mineral heart cannot help  
but yearn to return to original ore.  
The attraction imprisons me;  
I cannot break orbit  
but circle loops around love.  
I am dizzy, wracked by false freedom.  
Even now I skirt the composition  
of your soul, its familiar form and range.  
Our rust iron hearts are anchored  
Like sunken ships beneath the sea,  
too heavy with feeling to drift.  
Wise, you know the lure of this bond,  
It is you who loosens the rope.  
You know that fate has tied our hearts  
and that I always will return to you.

*Karen Dell Kinnison's poetry has been published in The Texas Review, South Dakota Quarterly, Bottomfish, The Amethyst Review, Poettalk, and the Yearbook of American Poetry. She lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.*