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When My Big Heart Stops

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When My Big Heart Stops

By: Andrew Gilkey

When my big heart stops,
will my right ventricle explode
in red pixelated glory,
dripping over the word fatality?
Or will the left atrium
expel a final bloody wheeze.

When my big heart stops
will my kin hand over
the five-dollar bill
to the boy
who grabbed my legs
to make the long drop shorter?

When my big heart stops
will a tiny hand rest in it?
Soft finger nail brushing
against the drywall
of my palms.
Maybe the chalk
of overprescribed Valium
will lay there instead.

When my big heart stops
will it be because my liver stopped paying
the rent and I couldn't find
a new tenant
before the toxins came knocking
on the vascular wall
asking for payments
on my heart's gambling debts?

When my big heart stops
will it be because I
couldn't do this pen to paper
thing anymore? Will it be
because I did it too much?