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POETRY | SPRING 2020

## Slippage

By Larry Oakner

A line of thought evaporates like a jet's vapor trail  
leaving a blank blue canvas.  
In the middle of a sentence, words disappear  
through a Vaudeville trapdoor.  
Eyeglasses mysteriously vanish.  
Routine dissolves.  
I check the alarm before bed.  
I check the alarm before bed.  
There is a loss of transmission for an idea.  
It's not the price I expected to pay.  
The ground fractures beneath me.  
What was I about to say?

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Larry Oakner has published two books of poems, *SEX LOVE RELIGION* (Blind Tattoo Press, 2018), and *The 614th Commandment*, the latter under his pseudonym, Eleazar Baruch (Blind Tattoo Press, 2019), along with a chapbook, *Sitting Still*. His poems will be forthcoming in *The Oddville Press* and *WINK*. Oakner's poems have appeared in *Tricycle: Buddhist News*, *Lost Coast Review*, *The Jewish Literary Review*, *Kerem*, *Home Planet News* and *The Long Island Quarterly*, among others. He received his M.A. in Creative Writing from the University of California at Los Angeles. Oakner is co-editor of *The Poem Shop*, an open online poetry website.

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