



White-tailed Hawk 2

Out on a virus exercise walk
Near Rice stadium.

The sky is a boiling cauldron,
It's bubbling and moving around,
The clouds are looking like bruises
And the boiling continues unbound.

It's threatening to do harm,
It's gonna foul up my walk,
And then I look into the turgid sky
And see the white-tailed hawk.

The white tail lined with a sharp black stripe
Is flying before the boiling cloud,
Dissolving it back into a fluffy friend,
Making me want to yell out loud.

And now I know why the ancients observed
Those ancient animistic rituals and rolls,
Seeking the help of spirits amongst us
To help on events beyond their control.

So, I fall to my knees and yell out loud
On the Rice University parking lot
Seeking salvation from the viral plague

Seeking the help of the white-tailed hawk.

I beseech the shaman with the white tail
To come and save our souls
I dance and sing and shout and beg
To keep us from the virus's tolls.

And I smile as I head on back to the house
I enjoyed my ritual from the heart,
And I wave goodbye to my friend the hawk
At least for today, he's done his part.

White-tailed Hawk

At Virginia Point on Galveston Bay
With Lalise at the proposed site
Of the long-gone Texas Copper plant.

In South Texas lore it's called the fire hawk,
A large hawk that rides the sky before us,
Majestic, white tail with the black stripe flared,
A hawk known to seek out the prairie burns
Where mice and snakes and lizards run before it,
A hawk that compels thoughts of civilizations
That preceded our time here,
A hawk for the ages, a hawk for me.

The white-tailed raptor dances on the air,
Circling higher, losing altitude, then up again,
A hawk that makes me glad to be alive,
A hawk that makes me grateful for those
Such as John Grimes who bravely opposed
The copper plant that would have despoiled this site
Next to the causeway into Galveston,
Industry solicited out of obsolete notions of economy,
An industrial plant that would have despoiled the bay
With toxic and hazardous pollutants,
A plant whose absence has not been felt,
An absence that allowed stewards such as Lalise Mason
The time to raise the money needed
To protect and nurture nature's circular economy,
An economy that is our model to follow
In these challenging times of our changing climate,
A climate that will exact a toll,

A climate that will bring about new solutions,
Solutions that Einstein said could not be found
By thinking the way we were thinking
When we created those problems.

With the sun pale behind the high, thin clouds,
I leave with the message of the fire hawk within me –
“Go forth and build the future’s circular economy
For it is a very different way of thinking and
As was said of the creation – it is good”.