

Walls

A wall says,
“You’re not welcome.”
“You have no seat on the board.”
“This land is posted: Keep Out.”

Walls never say,
“There’s plenty for all.”
“Color doesn’t matter.”
“Here’s your ballot.”

Walls writ into law fall to voting machines,
And if not voting machines,
To revolution,
violent and non-violent.

When a wall blocks your path,
If you have the will to fight
And no fear of dying,
You can take it down—
Alone, or with others,
One stone at a time,
Hack, hack, hack.

The Great Wall of China was breached.
The Berlin Wall fell to the wrecker’s ball.
Cutters snipped through barbed wire walls.
Walls of white gave way to Selma marchers.

The world is a maze
With a thousand thousand walls,
Bearing names like Narcissism, Egotism,
Sexism, Pride, Hypocrisy, Ignorance,
Nation-Building, Organized Religion, and more.

No matter how artfully applied the makeup,
How chic the outward attire,
How cultured or well-mannered,
Walls throb with an insatiable lust
For dominance, for lordship,
For the power of life or death
Over any and all challengers.