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Walls

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

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

Walls writ into law fall to voting machines,
And if that fails,
To revolution,
violent and non-violent.

When a wall blocks the 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 wires.
A white wall lost to Selma marchers.

A thousand thousand walls,
Bear names like Narcissism, Egotism,
Sexism, Pride, Hypocrisy, Ignorance,
Nation-Building, Organized Religion
. . . and more.

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