

down time

today is the first day
 of what's left of my life
today is the last day
 of the dead man's journey.

today I don't poison myself for a pension
today I don't soil my spirit
today I don't split my soul.

yesterday I was
 lightning in a bottle
 a watermelon on the vine
 a rocket on the pad.

today I'm a rusty old pile of railroad spikes
 tossed together in a heap by the tracks
 wondering why the trains don't come anymore.

today I'm quiet
today I don't speak
today I listen.

today I walk the circle
 that leads to the center
 from the outside
 to the inside
and back again.

today I know that I'm only a sparkle of sunlight
 shimmering on the surface of an ageless sea
today I hear the blade cutter in the distance
 but I know it's not for me
today I know the scariest thing I've ever known
 that I can't make my life
 the life I thought it would be
not today
maybe tomorrow
but not today.