

## easter

in this dream  
I'm looking at an old family photo  
    25-year-old black + white  
mother father brother + me  
    the classic easter pose in the yard  
        outside grandpa + grandma's house  
my focus is on my dad  
he's so young  
    younger than I am now  
and he looks so scared!

I feel compassion + tenderness for this  
    frightened young man who took on too much  
        a family he was ill-prepared to handle.

I know some of his fear  
I feel it myself in my own life every day  
    the fear of being a bad father  
    the fear of being a father too soon  
    the fear of losing my life + my dreams to  
        the demands of a wife + a child  
he has good reason to be afraid  
he looks lonely  
no one's taught him how to do this  
nobody's backing him up.

I feel his loneliness + his fear for the first time  
    not in my head but in my heart + my gut  
I'm surprised to feel such thorough compassion for him  
    as he was at that time  
I'm so used to hating the man I knew as my father  
    angry insensitive frightening hateful cruel  
I don't feel comfortable identifying with  
    this man I've cast as my personal demon.

this dream frightens me because I'm afraid I'm like him  
    but it also encourages me  
it tells me that  
    maybe I'm beginning to see him as a person  
        instead of a demon  
    maybe I'm beginning to let go of him at last.