

September 11, 2021

John Beall

Then the deadly attacks were defined and visible—

The killers with photographed faces,

Political forces at work, reasoned fanaticism

Behind the hijackings and slaughters,

And named foes in the Taliban.

A score of years later a deadly virus is not

Defined, not visible, pictured microscopically

With spiky coronas—not explosives.

In the virus invisible forces work

As we wander, unimmunized, in darkness.

**John Beall** has published a book of poems, *Self-Portraits* (Flying Horse Press 2019), and a book of literary criticism, *Hemingway's Art of Revision* (LSU Press 2024). His poems have twice won the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award. His poems have appeared in *The Henry James Review*, *Slant*, *MidAmerica*, *Songs and Poems for Hemingway & Paris*, *The New Mexico Review*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, and *Song Up Out of Spain*.