

ROBERT PAWLAK

Hypnos and Thanatos

Hulking battle tanks
Sit silent at sunrise
In the desert
Their guns drooping
As if asleep and exhausted

A haze hangs
Like a cool mist
In the orange tinted
Early morning air
It is dust

A dry hot lie
Like the idea
Of an exhausted death machine
Or that there might
Be mercy here

Robert Pawlak, an active duty member of the U.S. Army Special Forces, lives and works in Washington D.C. He has seen wartime service in Panama, Somalia, and Afghanistan. In addition to poetry, he writes fiction and is currently working on a series of short stories.