
Pro Rege

Volume 50
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue*

Article 7

December 2021

Funeral - Sunnyvale, California 2001

Erica Hughes

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hughes, Erica (2021) "Funeral - Sunnyvale, California 2001," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 50: No. 2, 9.
Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol50/iss2/7

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at Digital Collections @ Dordt. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pro Rege by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Dordt. For more information, please contact ingrid.mulder@dordt.edu.

Funeral — Sunnyvale, California 2001

Erica Hughes — Dordt alum, Ph.D. student at U of Illinois, Chicago

The men wiped sweat
from bald heads
and the women coursed
in black hats
into the mouth of grief.
The sanctuary was full of things
I'd known nothing about:
a vial of anointing oil
an amethyst sweat-cloth
slung over the sharp bishop's suit
a twisted cross
hung high on the wall
a portrait of a white man—
his eyes pale and unmoved.
Daddy, Uncle Koot, and Uncle Larry
pulled at their mother the way children do—

*Come on, Mama
Come on, Mama*

—trying to coax her down
from her daughter's casket.

I stood behind Nana
knee deep in the anguish
of not knowing

where the person goes
when she detaches from
her body.

I chewed the word died
like neckbone meat
and remembered how I lay
in the grass on my back
when Mom whispered

*—Kat died
—Complications
—Lupus*

—how I ran from an evening
that burned like a wick
and hid from god in a closet.