

Bowl of Petunias and The Seasons and the Slants --

Two Poems

By Michael Lee Johnson

Bowl of Petunias

If you must leave me please
leave me for something special,
like a beautiful bowl of petunias—
for when the memories leak
and cracks appear
and old memories fade,
flowers rebuff bloom,
sidewalks fester weeds
and we both lie down
separately from each other
for the very last time.

(2008)

The Seasons and the Slants

I live my life inside my patio window.
It's here, at my business desk I slip
into my own warm pajamas and slippers—
seek Jesus, come to terms
with my own cross and brittle conditions.

Outside, winter night turns to winter storm,
the blue jay, cardinal, sparrows and doves
go into hiding, away from the razor whipping winds,
behind willow tree bare limb branches—
they lose their faces in somber hue.
Their voices at night abbreviate
and are still, short like Hemingway sentences.
With this poetic mind, no one cares
about the seasons and the slants
the wind or its echoes.
I live my life inside my patio window.

-2008-

Michael Lee Johnson is a poet, freelance writer and small business owner of custom imprinted promotional products and apparel, from Itasca, Illinois. His new poetry chapbook with pictures, titled ***From Which Place the Morning Rises***, and his new photo version of ***The Lost American: from Exile to Freedom*** are available at: <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/promomanusa>. The original version of ***The Lost American: from Exile to Freedom***, can be found at:
http://www.iuniverse.com/bookstore/book_detail.asp?isbn=0-595-46091-7. New Chapbook:
Challenge of Night and Day, and Chicago Poems, by Michael Lee Johnson:
http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/challenge-of-night-and-day-and-chicago-poems-%28night%29/12443733?productTrackingContext=search_results/search_shelf/center/2. Michael has been published in over 24 countries. He is also editor/publisher of five poetry sites, all open for submission, which can be found at his Web site: <http://poetryman.mysite.com>.