

Everything is

Upside Down

Everything is upside down
For the God I believe in is

A terrified detainee
Being tortured to death
By a terrified soldier
Because we were told
To take the gloves off

A native American
Drinking himself to death

An Indian immigrant
Being shot & killed
For wearing a turban
Too soon after 9/11

A gay man
Being brutally beaten to death

A raw recruit
Left paralyzed for life
And speaking out
Against the madness of war

An abortionist
Suffering severe facial injuries
When her clinic is firebombed

A grey & white stray cat
Being hit by a car
& being cared for by my neighbor & i
Who the animal hospital said
They could try to save
For 75 dollars
But when we called animal control
They said our referral had died
Thus saving the city 75 dollars

A stop-logged soldier
Killing himself
Rather than returning to the hell
He thought he'd finally been freed from

A prostitute
Being viciously raped
By a moralistic vigilante

A journalist
At the Palestine hotel
Being killed
For trying to tell the truth
About the war

A Japanese father
Being detained at Manzanar
Because he looked
Like an enemy combatant

An undocumented trans-gendered immigrant
Dying in terminal island (how aptly named!)
Detention center
Because we won't let him have
His HIV med's

But when everything is right side up
The God I believe in will be
A homeless street kid
Welcoming an army of orphans
Into a family of gangbangers
In search of the ultimate rave
& when we finally find
The rave to end all raves
The music will rip our hearts out
& we'll never again
Be able to forget
How loved we've always been

Kelly Giles



Kelly Giles is adopted immigration lawyer who nearly joined the state department, as he wanted to be ambassador to Israel and bring about world peace. Now he wants to seek peace through poetry, from "swimming in a thunderstorm" through "surfing the tsunami" to "surrendering to transcendence", as his poems are about healing trauma personally and universally.