



Gene Mahoney

The Words

it's a destitute decision trying to force
the words, they will flow or
they will not, pushing
too hard once
caused
me
to
collapse
off
the
john
onto
a
filthy
latrine
floor,

blood
vessels
in
my
brain
bursting
like
black
grapes,
similar
i suppose
to
what
fatally
befell
the
poète
maudit
Jean Genet
in a one-star Paris hotel
closet when his condemned soul
decided to jump ship for the Port of Saints.

Gene Mahoney's work has appeared in *Wormwood Review*, *Chiron Review*, *Mobius*, *Nerve Cowboy*, *Mojo Risin*, *The Black Fly Review*, *Café Review*, *Sulphur River Review*, *California Quarterly*, *RE:AL: The Journal of Liberal Arts*, and elsewhere. He has published a chapbook, *The Low Spark of High-Heeled Boys*.

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