

Hassle

My plane
took off in 40
minutes

I checked in
got my pass
sat at the bar
ordered a beer
and sucked on it

I was leaving
out of Loveland-Fort Collins, CO
and the airport
was the size
of a one-story
house,
not even

the outside air
smelled of
blood and cow droppings

lovely city

I hadn't written
a single word
in 3 days

but I didn't feel bad
it was a break

I slunk around
not eating
or shitting
or writing

i was free...

I then
went to the security
counter

I wore
an argyle sweater-vest
a dirty
brown
corduroy jacket
and
khakis
that looked
as though
I dragged them
through mud

my beard
was scraggly
the scarf that
was wrapped around
my throat
was torn
and in need of a wash

“Step over here, Sir.”

I stepped.

They made me
put all my belongings
in grey, plastic tubs
and send them
through the
machine

then my shoes
came off

I felt the heat
escape

my big toe
hung out of the hole
in my left stocking

they thumbed

through the pages
of my book

asked me
questions
and decided
to allow me through...

finally
on the plane
my seat was 32 F

as I side-stepped
my way to my seat
giving ass and balls
to people on
either side

I saw that
my seat
was next to the
engine
and the two seats
adjoining mine
were taken up
my a giggling
Asian couple

the woman was cute
so I gave her balls

I sat down
at the window
before the plane took
off

the young
jovial Asian couple
moved to different seats

good, I thought

to them

I was disgusting

I smelled of
booze and cigarettes
and cat piss
I pressed my forehead
up against the cool
oval plane window
and watched the
fins
dance
up and down
in the Colorado winds

the plane began to rumble
and then we were
airborne
like 132
angels

and as we flew
I felt as though
I was going to vomit
but I swallowed hard

wanting to order a drink
but the stewardess
never came

eventually,
the snow turned to dirt
and I was home