



## THE POETRY OF SAVAGERY

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### Article Info

Received: 23.12.2016  
Accepted: 27.01.2017  
Published online: 01.03.2017

ISSN: 2231-8968

### Abstract

The entire world involving Diane Wakoski is actually full of violence, involving physiques staying pelted having principal points, involving shoots, blood vessels hiking trails, battered jaws and severed minds, a world by which snakes and tigers find their way in relation to ominously. What's the type on this violence? What's this poet's response to this? As well as what makes the girl find a way to process and surpass this? These include concerns which in turn creator wish to deal with in this posting.

### Introduction

Wakoski was created throughout Whittier, California and researched with the School involving California, Berkeley and graduated throughout 1960 with a Bachelor's involving Disciplines, where the girl enjoyed throughout Thom Gunn's poetry work spaces. It had been there which the girl 1st study most of the modernist poets who effect your ex composing type. The woman's first writings were being regarded as section of the deep impression activity which also included these works involving Jerome Rothenberg, Robert Kelly, and Clayton Eshleman, a few. She also cites William Carlos Williams, Allen Ginsberg and Charles Bukowski because has a bearing on. The woman's poetry occupation started throughout New york, where the girl migrated having Are generally Monte Small throughout 1960, and existed until 1973. The woman's in the future work is actually much more individual and audio in the Williams function. Wakoski is actually wedded on the photographer Robert Turney, and is particularly School Known Mentor Emeritus in The state of michigan Condition School throughout East Lansing, The state of michigan Wakoski's fictional works are already identified and underlined in The state of michigan Condition School of their The state of michigan Internet writers Sequence (Wikipedia).

The woman's work has been posted throughout more than thirty choices and a lot of slender volumes involving poetry. The woman's chosen verses, Emerald Ice, earned this William Carlos

Williams Treasure from your Poems Society involving America throughout 1989. She's most common for a few verses collectively called "The Motorbike Betrayal Poems." Most of your ex textbooks are already posted throughout very good updates by Black Sparrow Click.

Frederick L. Hoffman articulates involving 2 types of violence: emotional and impersonal. Sentimental violence is actually that which is actually "in overabundance expectation" (Hoffman 1964: 12). It's also called transgression passionel, (ibidem: 154), that may be, violence committed in the grasp of an powerful belief or ideological belief. Impersonal violence is actually which by which statements are not required and is particularly focused versus not guilty get-togethers. Warfare, for instance, can be a sample involving impersonal violence. Hoffman believes the 2 different types, emotional and impersonal violence<sup>1</sup>, may overlap in the event that an agent performing sentimentally versus a prey also eliminates or harms some others not regarding your ex (ibidem: 150). In much the same, Lawrence Third. Ries articulates involving "natural" violence and "human" violence. Natural violence is described as "the natural and strong energy which belongs to the normal order" (which, incidentally, may also be a life force) and man violence will be the personal injury which person inflicts upon his or her other adult men (Ries 1977: 5). The actual contention involving Ries is actually as a result comparable to which involving Hoffman: both agree which violence may perhaps possibly always be committed for emotional or for impersonal good reasons. It may well have got because it's focus on possibly somebody or perhaps a full class involving culture. Regarding this former, it could be referred to as specific violence yet in the case of this last option it's group violence (of what type experienced because of the Jews at the hands of this Nazis, for instance)<sup>2</sup>.

The actual specialist would choose to add to the 2 types of violence-sentimental and impersonal-a 3<sup>rd</sup> form of violence which known much of this last one hundred year poetry. Here is the violence generated once the 2 sexes battle. In such a battle, shared fascination includes using the wish to have control. Appreciate and loathe move in hand and express themselves in several methods. The actual appearance of the inconsistant emotions may be known as erectile violence. On this category, this specialist could area much of this poetry involving Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, and Diane Wakoski.

Associated with the technique of violence is actually which involving electrical power. Some sort of that may be strong has got to, involving must, be a earth involving violence. This sort of violence regarding electrical power gets into the majority of man interactions and something offers to deal with this, process this or surpasses this whilst getting together with the entire world. On this practice this reaction of somebody is actually possibly violence or regression. Guys, because Freud shows you, are not passive critters exactly who just shield themselves when bombarded; "a strong way of measuring wish to have violence should be reckoned within their implicit instinctual endowment" (Freud 1 q5 7: 85). It's that perspective which David Stuart Generator facilitates when seeing which throughout human beings you'll find 2 says involving inclinations-"one this desire to exercise electrical power over some others; this other-disinclination to have electrical power worked out over themselves" (Arendt 1969: 9). It's mankind's nature to meet up with his or her aggressive intuition in his or her neighbor and lead to your ex ache and

being made fun of. People may perhaps respond to violence how Ted Hughes and Thorn Gunn carry out, agreeing to this as an obstacle and rising to meet up with this. Nevertheless, it is usually probable to act in response in a very diverse way and self-conscious far from just about all violence, withdrawing straight into oneself. Poets exactly who convert aside in this fashion typically getaway within their inner surface, to their the child years or a risk-free safe place. For example, one could report Wordsworth getting out this prison property with the tedious earth into the earth involving nature<sup>3</sup>.

Hannah Arendt (1969: 41-42) distinguishes in between electrical power and violence. Quoting Engels, Arendt highlights which violence usually relies on tools while electrical power is dependent in figures. Nevertheless, despite the fact that violence and electrical power are wide and varied, these people look jointly and "loss involving electrical power gets to be an enticement to replace violence for power" (ibidem: 54). As opposed to electrical power, violence cannot be rationalized; this just causes much more violence. Now involving look at, however, may be questioned if we come back to this portrayal involving violence in a very poet including W. T. Yeats. Yeats distinguishes in between violence that may be evil and violence that may be great. Referrals on the "blood-dimmed tide"<sup>4</sup> along with the colossal using the human body of a lion along with the go of a person throughout his or her work use a diverse strive because. In Yeats: belief, violence which reasons a dissolution involving culture is actually bad while that which boosts and elevates human beings is actually great.

This kind of review is actually confined on the following volumes involving verse by Diane Wakoski: *Bouncing on the Grave of an Kid of an Bitch* (197B); *The actual Magellanic Ouds* (1973a); *Motorbike Betrayal Poems* (1971); and *Smudging* (1973b). Diane Wakoski's poetry shows a tricked, worrying love-poet, seeking moorings. At the same time, your ex individual lament is actually extensive to include a greater area to ensure your ex verses, including those involving another great poet, grow to be insights in man interactions. Wakoski's verses are not only full of appreciate and yearning, but in addition contain intense product descriptions involving the sun's rays, plants, diamond jewelry, and rubies. You can find referrals to mankind's getting on the silent celestial body, to politics results including George California, to physical specifics, on the Buddha, to dark-colored magic and witchcraft, to horticulture, astronomy and astrology. Nevertheless, underlying all of the twinkle, glitter, the sun's rays and factuality, a prolonged ominous remember that which in turn usually continues to be unsuppressed. Diane Wakoski's poetry is a lot like a volcano which erupts fire every now and then, unleashing fury, interest and loathe by way of persistent graphics involving violence. The woman's self-portrait is actually which of a lady that is both difficult and poor, vindictive and hurting, eager not just to "own" but in addition to "belong." The impression driving these types of contrary wants is intensive so it imparts to this poetry a seething, vibrant vitality<sup>5</sup>.

This kind of vigor is usually produced by man interactions. These interactions smoulder having violence a mixture of this emotional along with the erectile. The actual enemy throughout Wakoski's verses involving betrayal is usually a person who has power-power to appreciate, get over, injure, and eventually betray. The actual prey will be the poet himself exactly who publishes articles in the 1st man or women, articulates with no inhibitions in relation to your ex bruises and surgical marks. However occasionally these roles are usually reversed: this prey gets to be this enemy and vice versa. Next the persona no more continues to be trampled decrease; the

girl goes up just like a fury to wreak vengeance on her oppressor. Such violence, resulting thwarted or rejected appreciate, is actually the main topic of a majority of Wakoski's verses. In addition, Wakoski represents violence throughout a different, much more understated way by deliberately dismissing true feelings and sentiments<sup>6</sup> of those injure or hurt. This technique is actually a sort of "dehumani-zation, " a violence versus man pride. There is a cold-bloodedness about it which not only offends but in addition causes larger violence compared to is actually caused by a strategic laceration involving feelings. Often the enemy isn't identified, and the reason for hurting isn't given.

Diane Wakoski dedicated your ex Motorbike Betrayal Poems (1971) "to hundreds of adult men exactly who tricked myself formerly or a different, in the expectation that they may slide down their bicycles and crack their necks. " This kind of commitment amounts the impression with the enemy because he / she looks usually throughout your ex work. Often he / she is known as "the Master involving The world, " the sole person the girl desires (Wakoski 1973a: 129), and whoever actions the girl confirms whenever the girl goes (Wakoski 1978: dedication). This kind of person, that "king involving The world, or the man I established our head of hair in fire/ for" (*ibidem*: 36), is usually regarding graphics with the sunshine along with the Buddha-both taking light-weight right into a dim earth. Being a "king" or because George California, he has the facility to overpower hundreds of thousands. At times he or she is this wizard having mesmeric capabilities:

But, oh Mr. Magician, most of all you turned me into a different woman  
one who could make tables move with only the blood pulse moving in  
my right wrist (Wakoski 1973b:86).

In a more familiar guise, he appears as a mechanic riding a motorcycle. The  
motorcycle, again, is a vehicle that throbs with life and energy and can be  
handled only by one who has the ability and courage to do so. Such a man  
attracts Diane Wakoski  
(*ibidem*:106):

a strong man who builds, thinks, designs,  
a mechanic and architect,  
an important freeway in my life.

But the King of Spain, the god who rides a motorcycle, can be cruel. Associated with  
images of tigers and panthers, he is a predator, an invader, a cruel master:

King of Spain, one of your names breaks my heart....  
one of your traitors ... tries to slash me in the night one of your words has  
driven a nail through the instep of my foot, one of your elaborate rituals  
has permanently masked my face.

("The Imaginary Print of Your Spanish Foot," *ibidem*: 1261

He is ... the sun god (who)  
walks in the body of a yellow panther.

("The Acts of Devotion," Wakoski 1973a:701

Here the image of the panther is reminiscent of a poem by Sylvia Plath in which she depicts death as a panther stalking its victims slowly, but surely (Plath 1981:22). In Wakoski's vision, however, it is a perversion of love that tracks a woman down with the same inexorable uncertainty.

There are other animal images associated with man:

... it was not until I met you ...  
whose boldness lifted me as a hawk would a snake  
before he flings it  
down on the ground  
to bash the life out of its ....

("Love Passes Beyond the Incredible Hawk of Innocence,"  
Wakoski 1973a:931

the jaguar holding the rabbit  
In his thick paws,  
started with the head, working a hole open until  
he had the brains exposed, and he continued to lick,  
eating at the red mass ....  
I ... looking at all the great cats, the black leopard,  
the lion with her two cubs, the two large jaguars,  
felt myself dead and limp, felt myself the rabbit,  
thrown into the cage ....

("The Birds of Paradise Being Very Plain Birds," *ibidem* :87)

The panther, the hawk and the jaguar are symbols of power that keeps them much above the rest of their kind and also makes them capable offering others into submission. As such, Diane Wakoski feels that they are the best symbols<sup>7</sup> for men who can not only master but also coerce.

The same symbols are used by Ted Hughes in a different manner. In "The Jaguar," Hughes speaks of:

... a jaguar hurrying enraged  
Through prison darkness after the drills of his eyes  
On a short fuse ....  
His stride is wilderness of freedom:  
The World rolls under the long thrust of his heel.

(Gunn and Hughes 1962:39)

And in "Hawk Roosting," a hawk asserts its powers:

I sit in the top of the woods, my eyes closed ...  
My feet are locked upon the rough bark,  
It took the whole of Creation  
To produce my foot, my each feather:  
Now I hold Creation in my foot.

Or fly up, and revolve it all slowly-  
I kill where I please because it is all mine.  
There is no sophistry in my body:  
My manners are tearing off heads

The sun is behind me.  
Nothing has changed since I began.  
My eye has permitted no change.  
I am going to keep things like this

(Hughes 1972:39)

The difference between the perceptions of Hughes and Wakoski, to my mind, is that between a masculine sensibility and a feminine one. Hughes sees in his animals their power to rise above adversity. Their strength to survive is what he emphasizes. His crow, too, is not just an ordinary bird of the scavenger variety. It is a life-force in the midst of death and decay. If there is violence in Hughes' perception, it is only to emphasize that in order to conquer the violence of the present world one needs greater violence, greater energy and greater ruthlessness. On the contrary, Diane Wakoski views animals the way a *victim* would, fearing that their power and fury would be a threat to her being. Hughes' hawk holds creation in its feet and permits no change whatsoever. It can even kill brutally. Wakoski's hawk also has the same power. But, unlike Hughes, Wakoski fears it because its destructive propensities may be directed towards herself. Similarly, Hughes' jaguar too, though caged, is a majestic animal. And, again, Wakoski fears it for the same reason as she fears the hawk. On the imaginative level she identifies herself with the rabbit that the jaguar feeds on. The jaguar and the hawk both symbolize man the predator, the plunderer, and the tyrant.

The quotation from "Love Passes Beyond the Incredible Hawk of Innocence" needs to be looked at again:

It was not until I met you ...  
whose boldness lifted me as a hawk would a snake.

(Wakoski 1973a:93)

The hawk is in conflict with a snake, a stealthy, swift, and venomous creature. If the hawk can kill with its beak and claws, the snake can do so with its poisonous fangs. In this poem (unlike the second example where the conflict is between a jaguar and a rabbit) the struggle is between the two forces which are dangerous in their own ways. Even though the snake is usually a symbol of masculinity, here it stands for womanhood caught in, and struggling with, the vice-like grip of a male world. This is also the theme of "Vulture:"

Sitting across the bar from me,  
you turn into a vulture wearing a black raincoat.

Your beak would snap a mouse in two.  
Your claws would rip open a goat.

Yet I trust you.  
Have we met before and found that we are common birds?

(Wakoski 1973b: 120)

The vulture's beak and claws are as destructive, as threatening as the hawk's. And yet-and yet-there is a feeling of camaraderie that the poet experiences: "Yet I trust you." Is it because there is something common between the vulture and its victim? Between the assailant and the assaulted? "Have we met before and found that we are common birds?" Probably here, too, the victim is not a weak creature of little consequence. He seems to be an equal-or almost equal-match to the assailant<sup>8</sup>. The victim (woman) may not be physically so strong as man but, at the same time, she is strong enough to put up a befitting fight:

A man says, 'It is mine',  
but he hacks,  
chops apart the mine  
to discover,  
to plunder,  
what's in it / Plunder,  
that's the word.  
Plunder.

A woman wakes up  
finds herself  
scarred  
but still glinting  
in the dark.

("Movement to Establish My Identity," Wakoski 1973a:12G-7)

Woman may be "scarred" but she is still capable of "glinting." She may suffer but, like the phoenix, she comes back to life whenever an effort is made to destroy her.

In her craving for love, Diane Wakoski's woman makes herself vulnerable to all kinds of brutality. In "To an Autocrat" the title itself is self-explanatory (Wakoski 1973b:57), whereas the cruelty of a husband is the subject of "Love Passes Beyond ... :"

You hurt me.  
You locked me in a room and took away my glasses when you found me  
reading a book by a man you hated;  
you pounded my head against the floor when I wouldn't change my name;  
you tried to lock me away in a mental institution when I wanted to  
go to a writer's conference for two weeks ....  
(Wakoski 1973a:95)

that is what love is,  
for all its trouble,  
all its pain,  
all its difficulty, it IS a man  
and a woman  
who are opposites but cannot exist  
without  
each other.  
(*ibidem*:129)

In short, love-or the object of one's love-can cause pain "because love is a crippled foot that makes you walk slower and more / painfully; because love cannot win at the races" ("Ten, the Number of My Fingers:" Wakoski 1971 :122). The conflict arises because man and woman, though dependent on each other, are also antagonistic forces:

In this battle of the sexes it is not surprising that power should pass from the hands of one to another. There is a reversal of roles. Woman becomes the assailant and man her victim:

Will she cut your throat one night as you sleep  
or take off : our balls?  
Will she steal you blind  
and leave you with your stockbroker  
or debilitate you with your own weaknesses  
and jump in to mastery after  
she's spoiled you for anything but drink and talk?

("To An Autocrat," Wakoski 1973b:58)

This reversal of roles is explicitly stated in "The Old Impossibilities" (Wakoski 1973a:98). It is a strange tussle in which one cannot always distinguish between the two parties. There is, in Wakoski's role as a woman, a curious blend of magnanimity and submission. In "Smudging" she likens herself to a golden fruit that breaks open and can be "owned" by a prince. The fruit is "waiting" to be owned; it does not offer itself. On



the contrary, the "prince"<sup>9</sup> has to make an effort to come to it. Thus the fruit is superior to the prince. At the same time, it can be "owned"-and hence inferior. The fruit, a symbol of womb and womanhood, can dictate and be dictated to, command and obey:

.... There is part of me that trembles,  
and part of me that reaches for warmth,  
and part of me that breaks open  
like mythic fruit,  
the golden orange every prince will fight  
to own.  
(Wakoski 1973b:13)

Wakoski offers love but when it is rejected, she is capable of resorting to violence.

When rising in revolt to wreak vengeance on men, Diane Wakoski sounds very much like Sylvia Plath in "Daddy" and "Lady Lazarus." In "Lady Lazarus," Sylvia Plath's woman is a vengeful fury who cannot be cowed down: "I eat men like air." And "Daddy" is a ritual enacted by a woman to kill the master who holds her in thrall" (Plath 1981 :244-47,222-24). Similarly, in "Exorcism," Diane Wakoski expresses her anger against a man (here a husband):

I will shake you angrily to make you see movement.  
I will shout at you to hurt your eardrums and  
  
make you remember  
pain, the first sensation of living,  
  
I will slam your sloppy open door and scold you  
for your messy habits ....  
(Wakoski 1973a:138)

And in the title poem of *Dancing on the Grave of a Son of a Bitch* she, like Plath's persona in "Daddy," ritually destroys the memory of her oppressor:

God damn it,  
at last I am going to dance on your grave,  
old man;  
  
you've stepped on my shadow once too often,  
you've been unfaithful to me with other women,  
women so cheap and insipid it psychs me out to think  
I might

ever  
be put  
in the same category with them;

and I will dance, dance, dance  
on your grave, grave, grave,  
because you are a son of a bitch, a son of a bitch ...  
and dance dance dance on your grave  
one step

for every time  
you done me wrong.

(Wakoski 1978:57-59)

It would be worth its while to compare Diane Wakoski's foreword to this poem (which, incidentally, is dedicated to her "motorcycle betrayer") with Plath's note to "Daddy." Wakoski's foreword tells us that the poem is "a performance to drive away bad spirits perhaps." It expresses the fury of a woman against the man from whom she has parted: "She is furious. She kills him mentally .... She decides to prove to herself that she's glad he's gone from her life. With joy she will dance on all the bad memories of their life together." Similarly, Plath's "Daddy" is also a sort of ritual of exorcism, an effort to stamp out the memory of an aggressor<sup>10</sup>. The poet tells us that the persona has to "act out the awful little tragedy once over before she is free of it" (Rosenthal1970:70). This poem too ends with the same kind of ritualistic dancing and stamping:

There's a stake in your fat black heart  
And the villagers never liked you.  
They are dancing and stamping on you.  
They always *knew* it was you.  
Daddy, daddy, you bastard, I'm through.  
("Daddy," Plath 1981:224)

The underlying similarity between the two poems cannot be ignored. Wakoski's poem, like Plath's, professes to be the incantation of a woman performing a ritual to kill her husband/lover/father. The fury contained in the poem is similar-vindictive but, at the same time, suppressed and contained within the poetic form. Both resort to hurling invectives at their oppressors while giving vent to their anger. There is violence in both action and words: Sylvia Plath's betrayer is a bastard while Wakoski's is a "son of a bitch."

The kind of sentimental violence portrayed in "Daddy" and "Dancing on the Grave of a Son of a Bitch" is an example of what Hoffman calls "crime passionel." The victim IS killed but the passion does not subside and hence the assailant must dance and stamp on his body (or his grave). This leads to the catharsis of anger and hate that the victim evokes. It is to be noted that in both poems the victim is inert, dead, and does not strike back. The persona does not view her enemy as an animated being capable of retaliation

because she does not want her assault challenged<sup>11</sup>. For this reason, it is necessary that the assailant should first deprive his victim of all human traits and thus mitigate the magnitude of his crime. Violence can also be perpetrated by deliberately ignoring the feelings and sentiments, the humanity of a person, and merely reporting the suffering. This kind of violence is also found in Wakoski:

as the thin small poet stood on the beach  
in the light of the torch and was  
run down and immediately killed  
that night, on the beach, the sand  
soft and cool, like his breath, just a few  
minutes before.

("Poet at the Carpenter's Bench," Wakoski 1973b:30)

Here the event is a death-without cause, consequence or meaning. There is violence not just in the killing of the poet but also in Wakoski's account of it which deliberately assumes an impersonal tone and deprives the victim of all humanity. This death is an example of violence against human dignity such as Joseph K's death in Kafka's *The Trial*. There again, the cause of Joseph K's suffering is not given, his assailants are not identified and his death is sudden and violent. There is no dignity involved; in fact he dies "like a dog" (Kafka 1973:286). Wakoski's poet too dies like a dog though it is not explicitly stated as in *The Trial*. The victim is "run down," the way a dog would be run down, and "immediately killed." He is not given a chance to understand why he is killed or even to grasp what is happening to him. He is denied humanity. And when he falls on the beach, the sand is "soft and cool, like his breath, just a few / minutes before." In these two examples, it may be noted, the assailant remains anonymous. We do not know who slits the throat of Joseph K. or who runs down the poet on the beach. Invariably, in Wakoski, the assailant is an impersonal "they."

Sometimes in Wakoski the sun that is associated with violence, in this respect, too, Wakoski may be compared with Sylvia Plath who invariably associates sunshine with all that is hostile to human life. In Plath's "Suicide Off Egg Rock" the sunshine brings out all the glaring imperfections of the world:

Behind him the hotdogs split and drizzled  
On the public grills, and the ochreous salt flats,  
Gas tanks, factory stacks-that landscape  
Of imperfections his bowels were part of-  
Rippled and pulsed in the glassy updraught.  
Sun struck the water like a damnation.  
No pit of shadow to crawl into ....

(Plath 1981:115)

This sunshine is a "damnation" that makes one desirous of "crawling" out of it and also out of the world of imperfections that is lit up by it. The persona of the poem is driven to suicide and we get the impression that it is the sun that goads him into putting an end to his life. It makes him look for a "pit of shadow" to crawl into. He is milder(s), as if stone-deaf, blindfold," that is, it robs him of his senses, sucks the humanity out of him. He sees that "Everything shrank in the sun's corrosive / Ray," and finds the will to live shrinking, withdrawing, and finally leaving him as he walks into the ocean to put an end to his life.

This kind of sunshine that provokes one into violence against oneself can also result in violence against others. For example, in Camus' *The Outsider* (1957:65,67) the same kind of corrosive sunshine deprives Meursault of his sanity and makes him kill a person who has no way offended him:

The light seemed *thudding in my head* ... I could *feel my temples swelling* under the impact of the light. It *pressed itself upon me*, trying to check my progress. And each time I felt a *hot blast strike my forehead*, I gritted my teeth, I clenched every nerve to fend off the sun and the *dark befuddlement it was pouring into me* ...

... I was conscious only of the *cymbals of the sun clashing* on my *skull*, and less distinctly, of the *keen blade of light* flashing up from the knife, *scarring my eyelashes*, and *gouging into my eyeballs*.

Then everything began to reel before my eyes, a fiery gust came from the sea, while the sky cracked in two, from end to end, and a great *sheet of flame* poured down the rift. Every nerve of my body was a steel spring, and my grip closed on the revolver ....

The images and phrases emphasized here inflict injury on the senses. This violence comes from the sun and is responsible for the murder Meursault commits. As in some of the examples cited earlier, this violence too is of unknown origin, the motive is not given and the whole action takes place in strange circumstances and has a trance-like aura about it. The character does not seem to act of his own free will: it is the sun, the cruel sun, that controls his volition and guides his actions.

In Diane Wakoski, "the evil eye comes from the sun" ("Stories from Buffalo," Wakoski 1973b:122). Again, the sun is not benevolent but malevolent; it can burn and scorch:

Walking across the desert,  
he puts his scorching hands over our eyes  
and turns vision into sounds,  
waves  
as the ocean,  
drawing the pupils away from rattlesnakes and blurring  
the hawks

that sail so unconcerned with heat  
above our heads.

("Reaching Out With The Hands of the Sun," Wakoski 1973a:28)

The heat of the sun can blur one's vision and even cause hallucination. It can make one blind to rattlesnakes, hawks and other dangers lurking about.<sup>12</sup> The hawk imagery surfaces once more: the hawk, unlike man, is unaffected by the heat and continues to fly overhead majestically. Again, there is a stress on the superiority of the animal world when compared with the human world<sup>13</sup>, and this superiority is highlighted by the sunshine.

The sun may also be looked upon as a boy, a lover, as Diane Wakoski does in "Anger At the Weather:"

I *have* come here for sunshine,  
as I said before  
I want that beautiful young boy, the sun,  
to take off all his clothes,  
let the heat scorch down on us  
rubbing the hard head of temperature *over* our bellies  
around our mouths, against the jugular vein  
in the neck last of all,  
across the lips of my female body<sup>14</sup>. (Wakoski 1973b:71)

The sun here becomes a lover, Wakoski's "King of Spain," someone loved but cruel<sup>15</sup>. The description of love-making has an element of brutality in it as seen in the poet's use of words like "scorching" and "rubbing" instead of "caressing," "touching" and "loving." But this brutality is welcomed by the poet and there is something masochistic in her sensuous acceptance of the sunshine on her body, even if it is harsh. Again, the sun is the active force as compared with the passivity of the poet. Life without the sun will be nothing short of horror<sup>15</sup>:

Do you know the horror of my lizard life  
and no sun  
to run long fingers down the vertebrae?  
("The Pterodactyl," *ibidem*: 115)

And finally, there is one more reason why the sun is so important in Diane Wakoski's poetry. Diane is the moon-goddess and the moon is lit up by the sun. The sun, the male factor, gives life to the moon while the moon, the passive partner, "receives" its light. Like the fruit in "Smudging," it waits to be assaulted, to be owned, to be invaded and conquered by the male force. Its relationship with the sun (the male force) remains an ambivalent one. Like the woman of the poems, the moon remains "scarred" but "glinting/in the dark."

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