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# God as Columbo

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N. S. Boone

*And the LORD said unto Cain, "Where is Abel, thy brother?"*

## God as Columbo

Because he knows, from the beginning,  
from the slightest residue of your guilt  
left at the crime—

because he knows, he does not judge  
but calls you from a distance,  
providing every chance for confession,

comes 'round day by day  
probing your conscience,  
your feelings, inescapable,

like one of your grandfather's bear hugs  
that would suffocate  
even as you'd feel the tenderness in the squeeze.

By the time you know he knows  
and you have no choice but surrender,  
you realize that you've always wanted to confess

as your ego shrinks to the size  
of the notepad he keeps in his trenchcoat,  
and you want just to be kept there through the night.