

1985

# Pain

Dionisio D. Martinez

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## Six Poems · *Dionisio D. Martinez*

### PAIN

for Armando Valladares

We all expected to see you lame.  
Some *wanted* to see you lame.  
When you walked toward us  
we imagined you crawling. It was  
like waiting for a train that suddenly  
turns into a wolf: it howls  
as it runs into the station, its eyes  
blind you like headlights, you step  
into its mouth as if it were a car, you  
think of tunnels and the next stop  
as you're being devoured: you expected  
a train and can't imagine anything else.  
We waited with a wheelchair for a man who  
could've used a new pair of shoes.  
We asked the obvious questions:  
if half a life of torture really  
softens the bones until the body falls  
like a ruined shack, if rebuilding  
the shack is worth the trouble. And when  
someone mentioned pain, the word rising  
from its metaphors, you tried to laugh.

Your mouth opened like a small wound.