Zvi A. Sesling
Entering Ocean

> *men who love women should never go swimming*
> — *Bob Kaufman*

Step forward slowly
first the toes, then foot
up to ankle

Let the cold wash over them
keep moving to calf, then knee
chill up to the thigh
higher, scrotum shrivels

Cold pimples on the belly
finally dunk – the baptism
of white foam and blue salt
immersed in another world

You long for your world

He was right, don't swim
stay on land with her

Inconsequential Rain

A light rain, more than drizzle
less than hard rain

  —no effect on Islamic fundamentalists
  —street gangs
  —arrogant professors
  —happy poets
  —feral cats
  —lost lovers
  —homeless veterans

The rain starts and stops like
drunks wobbling on sidewalks from lamppost
to lamppost unable to run between drops

  —no effect on violent children
  —apologizing politicians
  —overpaid athletes
  —underpaid teachers
  —hate filled evangelists
  —killers and rapists

The rain runs through streets of ancient villages,
dirt gullies into rivers and sewers where filth can
be purified or pure become polluted

Stand naked in the rain, feel the new world or melt
in the purification of skin and soul

Return like liquid to the earth that you ate as a child
and let your soul be free to join those before you

Let the inconsequential rain cleanse and heal

50s Horror Movie

Beautiful blonde, thick lips
skimpy gown, tosses in her sleep
grotesque face of scarred man
limping, creeps toward her
she wakes, screams – no hope
she faints, he carries her off
to a cave in the hills – she begs
for freedom, he grunts, moves in
there is a close up of his gory face
next scene he is eating dinner
then another scene when we
realize it was the blonde he
munched on as he limps off
to find another victim, followed
by a commercial for frozen
food on Channel 862.

Love In The Time Of Flu

Don't touch   Don't kiss
Don't share utensils
Don't go to restaurants
Don't go to bookstores
Don't go shopping
Don't go to pharmacies
(unless for medicines)
Do make dinner for her/him
Do what you can for him/her