

Rick Mulkey and Susan Tekulve

an excerpt of

These Quiet Poems

Blessed with perhaps the most fertile imagination of any contemporary poet, Albert Goldbarth possesses the ability to uncover metaphor and explore imagistic possibilities in the most surprising subjects and objects. One simply can look at some of his three dozen book titles to discover the range of his interests:

Coprolites; Ink Blood Semen; Arts and Sciences; Popular Culture; Heaven and Earth: A Cosmology; Adventures in Ancient Egypt; Marriage and Other Science Fiction; Dark Waves and Light Matter; Budget Travel through Space and Time; and The Kitchen Sink.

Even more important than the wealth of subjects and the style in which the poems are written is the way that Goldbarth passionately reminds his readers that to be human means we must be conscious of more than ourselves. We are more than the intentionality of free will, more than the determinism of the genome, more even than our joys and tragedies, our stupidity and wonder, our love and lust, our craziness and grief. We must enlarge our circle of compassion.