

# COLLATERAL

Issue 8 / Volume 1  
Fall 2023

Editors

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## Western Wall

James King

It was still wailing then.  
I watched and listened:  
the swaying,  
the paper prayers,  
pistols and payots,  
sandals and shtreimels,  
guards and gartels,  
tank tops and tallit.

Some moss, a few trees  
trying to grow their way  
out of limestone crags,  
straining for rays  
off the gold reflection  
of another god's smile.

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“During a backpacking trip through Europe, the Middle East, and Asia in the late 70s and early 80s, I spent several months on a kibbutz just outside Jerusalem. I was fascinated by the beauty, contrasts, and constantly simmering tensions of the land and its peoples, all of which inspired ‘Western Wall.’”

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**James King's** poetry has appeared in *The Dilyduon Review*, *The Thieving Magpie*, *OpenDoor Poetry Magazine*, *Oddville Press*, *Big City Lit*, *The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature*, *Crowstep Poetry Journal*, and other journals and anthologies. He is also the author of the award-winning novel, *Bill Warrington's Last Chance*. James is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and has an MA in writing from Manhattanville College. He lives in Wilton, Connecticut, USA.

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