

For David Barber

by [David Solway](#) (October 2018)



Untitled (Violet, Black, Orange, Yellow on White and Red), Mark Rothko, 1949

This is the way to
Make the old game grand
Again

David Barber, *Bambino Sutra*

Well, David, I've got to give you credit.

You can carry a weighty theme for the long
haul, and swell a minor subject to
unexpected magnitude. I can't debit
you your talents, the bag of doublets
you pay the Muses with. You deliver
the goods, a poet with a mighty shlong
so the old lumber rings
adept at taming the local Furies by inflaming
desire for apt consummations.

You have earned a nation's gratitude,
this side of the Atlantic, helping to make
American Poetry Great Again,
a venture most intrepid in these parlous times.

Let the eagle soar again, raise the phoenix
of embered verse from the ash heap.

I envy your gravamen and cannot emulate your prolonged
afflatus,

I will study your patience
and contemplate your love of brocaded lingo,
your weirdly purfled sutras and exotic periplus.

Me, I'm just a gringo beagling for rhymes.

David Solway is a Canadian poet and essayist. His most recent volume of poetry, *The Herb Garden*, appeared in spring 2018 with Guernica Editions. A partly autobiographical prose manifesto, *Reflections on Music, Poetry & Politics*, was released by Shomron Press in spring 2016. A CD of his original songs, *Blood Guitar and Other Tales*, appeared in 2016. Solway's current projects include work on a second CD, *The Book of Love*, with his pianist wife Janice Fiamengo and writing for the major American political sites such as *PJ Media*, *American Thinker* and *WorldNetDaily*.

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