

1982

Reconciliation

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Reconciliation

Spring 42 TTH--Winter 82 RTH

last night i watched
Life Goes To War
and seeing Donald Duck in full combat attire
fight the tricky japs
could not help to think
it is because of this
i am that i am

in arenas of amusement
baseball games and football
since i was a child
i had always noticed how
he sang the National Anthem
hand to heart
everytime
nisei
father of mine

while in school
your rosy children named me
for the hate that you gave them
like a christmas or birthday

present

spring 1942
he was my age then
and as i a student
often i wonder
what he thought of how he felt
on that busride
to Tule Lake, a ten by twenty tarpaper home
and six months
internment

watching him now from my window
shoveling december snow
in boots of leather
and olive drab officer's coat
i feel barbed wire
prick the neck
and something says to me
go there
walk its perimeter, feel its barren air
touch the land

son, reconcile

R.T.Hayashi