



THE CHANGING DAY IMPERATIVE

—JONATHAN JOHNSON

In the blue day
a coast breeze moves
the sun's heat from the skin
then lets the skin warm again,
the atmosphere tuned
precisely to easy,
eye-closing joy.
Beyond the white edge
of overcast, in a day
under which nothing shines,
the water's gray is green
from the shadow line
to the horizon, past which
wind shapes the rain.
Alone in a wooden boat,
lift the long oars,
let them drip,
and for some unmeasured time,
drift.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jonathan Johnson's second collection of poems, *In the Land We Imagined Ourselves*, was published by Carnegie Mellon University Press in 2010. His first collection, *Mastodon, 80% Complete*, was published in 2001 by Carnegie Mellon. His poems have appeared in the Best American Poetry and other anthologies, as well as recent issues of *Southern Review*, *Ploughshares*, *North American Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*. Johnson is also the author of a memoir, *Hannah and the Mountain: Notes Toward a Wilderness Fatherhood*, which was published in 2005 by the University of Nebraska Press in their American Lives Series. He is a professor at the Inland Northwest Center for Writers, the MFA program at Eastern Washington University.