12:01 AM

Joshua Corwin

I can hear the shine in your eyes
on the other end of the telephone.

When I speak like this,
I feel authentic
and not heavy.

I don't have to tattoo meaning in the air
to know what you mean.

I remember when you first told me…
apropos of nothing…
about the different levels of charitable donation.

I was sitting right across from you — over there.
(You in that armchair, me in this one: our eyes.)

You said there's the donor who gives large sums
and puts a placard on the wall, signifying
who it's from;

and then there's the other one who gives…
but remains anonymous.

Your words hanging like a phantom,
I didn't have to be who I thought I was;

you were once me,
once where I was…

In that moment, I knew.

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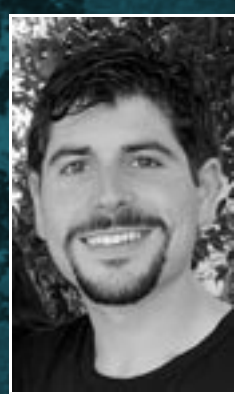

Los Angeles native Joshua Corwin is a neurodiverse, Pushcart-nominated poet with a B.A. in mathematics and a minor in philosophy from Pitzer College ('19). His debut poetry collection *Becoming Vulnerable* details his experience with autism, addiction, sobriety and spirituality (Baxter Daniels Ink Press/International Word Bank; April 2020). Corwin hosts the poetry podcast "Assiduous Dust." He teaches self-exploration through poetry to neurodiverse individuals and autistic addicts in recovery at The Miracle Project, an autism nonprofit, held at The Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts in Beverly Hills. For more information, see www.joshuacorwin.com.