GRANDFATHER ASCENDING A STAIRCASE

José A. Alcántara

My son's sons
will be suns
to their own sons.

My daughter's daughters
will be laughter
and more laughter.

And only after
my son has a daughter
and my daughter has a son

will I be the one
shining like laughter
laughing like the sun.

José A. Alcántara is the author of *The Bitten World: Poems* (Tebot Bach, 2022). He has worked as a bookseller, mailman, electrician, commercial fisherman, baker, carpenter, studio photographer, door-to-door salesman, and math teacher. His poetry and prose have appeared in *The American Poetry Review, American Life in Poetry, The Threepenny Review, Harvard Review, Ploughshares, The Southern Review*, & *The Slowdown*. He is the recipient of the Neil Postman Award for Metaphor from Rattle and fellowships from VCCA, Willapa Bay AIR, Fishtrap, and *The Sun Magazine*. José lives in southern California, western Colorado, and wherever he happens to pitch his tent.