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Drowning

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Drowning

– Robert L. Gockman

Fifty years into his marriage,
overcome by a mate
who gave him
no breathing space,
he felt himself like a tired swimmer
on an immense ocean.

At night, his dreams
repeated his waking hours
leaving him weak and exhausted.
And when he slept he anticipated
the first breath
that would fill his lungs
with water and end his struggle.

She, of the raucous,
perpetual mouth
bit, chewed and swallowed
his soul,
slavered his thoughts,
diluted his will.

She dominated every conversation
so that every idea was
filtered,
bent,
shaped
and altered
to conform to hers.

Smothered by her
oppressive persona,
dying a slow death,
he resisted no longer.
His spirit drowned.