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KARTIKA REVIEW

MEDITATIONS ON “HOME”



PETER BACHO

For me, California was always a place to visit – and that’s what I did from 1989 to 1996. I was a sojourner in California, first in San Francisco, where the congestion, the high costs of living and the city’s intolerable smugness pushed me west, to Sacramento, where the angry sounds on hot summer nights – shotgun blasts and sometimes fully automatic bursts – sealed my decision. Toss in a failing marriage and...

...in 1996, I went home, to Seattle, where my father and uncles are buried and my mother still lived. She was frail and aged and, I was convinced, thinking of joining them soon. Fourteen years later, Mom is still here. I’d like to think it’s because all of her kids are nearby. But maybe there’s more.

Lake Washington and Puget Sound to the east and west of the city and beyond, snow capped peaks to the west and east. Such stunning vistas, especially on cold and clear December mornings.

When I was young, our family was poor. But no matter. My parents and I would savor those sights that money couldn’t buy.



Peter Bacho is the author of five books: *Cebu*, *Dark Blue Suit*, *Boxing in Black and White*, *Nelson’s Run*, and his latest, *Entrys*. His books have received several awards,

including the 1992 American Book Award. He is a writing professor at Evergreen State College. Bacho was born in Seattle, Washington in 1950 and grew up in Seattle's Central District.