

SAMURAI SONG

When I had no roof I made
Audacity my roof. When I had
No supper my eyes dined.

When I had no eyes I listened.
When I had no ears I thought.
When I had no thought I waited.

When I had no father I made
Care my father. When I had
No mother I embraced order.

When I had no friend I made
Quiet my friend. When I had no
Enemy I opposed my body.

When I had no temple I made
My voice my temple. I have
No priest, my tongue is my choir.

When I have no means fortune
Is my means. When I have
Nothing, death will be my fortune.

Need is my tactic, detachment
Is my strategy. When I had
No lover I courted my sleep.



ROBERT PINSKY'S most recent book of poetry is *Gulf Music*. Earlier works include *The Figured Wheel*, awarded the Lenore Marshall Prize, and *The Inferno of Dante*, which won the Howard Morton Landon Prize in translation as well as the Los Angeles Times Book Award. His prose works include *The Life of David*, an account of the Biblical hero, and the recent *Thousands of Broadways: Dreams and Nightmares of the American Small Town*. As Poet Laureate of the United States, Pinsky founded the Favorite Poem Project. The recent FPP anthology, *An Invitation to Poetry*, includes a DVD with videos of Americans reading and talking about beloved poems. Mr. Pinsky's works about poetry include *The Sounds of Poetry and Democracy*, *Culture and the Voice of Poetry*. Mr. Pinsky is the only member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters to have appeared on both *The Simpsons* and *The Colbert Report*.



Prose and Poetry

phantom
billstickers Ltd.

13thhead@gmail.com