

Seed of a Thought

by Walt Sutton

I am watching football
talking to my son
and daughter-in-law
And while we watch I say
"Joe something or another is a good coach"
"You mean Joe Smith, I think it's Smith, Dad"
"yea", I say pretending I know his name
and I did know his name
only when I went to say it
I lost it
like a watermelon seed
squirting from between
my fingers
as I press
I lost it
only it didn't drop on the floor
I couldn't watch its arc to go find it
I just lost it
until my son said "Smith Dad"
and what was he thinking
not Joe, I mean my son.
Did he notice?
does he think my mind is slipping
like the seed?
no arc
no way to know where it will go
no way to know if it will get "Smith" or not
when it matters way more than Smith?
I remember what it is like to get every word
before anyone else in the room did
I remember that
but not "Smith"
damn,
now where did that seed go?

