

## **I've Been Trying**

I've been trying to get past the whiteness,  
root out the racism, colonialism, and  
superiority of western civilization.

I've been trying to get past the south  
beyond the tales we were told  
beyond the images left behind.

I've been trying to understand  
other colors, other cultures,  
find the truth in oral tradition.

I've been trying to get past what  
I was taught and learned  
what passed as history.

I've been trying to understand  
it's up to me to make this change,  
go beyond the raising.

I've been trying to find a way  
to keep the baby when we throw  
out the dirty bathwater.

I've been trying to believe that  
we can work our way through  
this and come out the other side.

I've been trying to hope that  
there's a future for us all and  
we don't have to implode.

I've been trying to see the  
future as something other than  
annihilation and destruction.

I've been trying to imagine a  
world remotely like that –  
I've been trying.

***J. B. Hogan** is from Fayetteville, Arkansas and has had some 270 poems and stories published, as well as nine books: *Time and Time Again*, *Mexican Skies*, *Tin Hollow*, *Living Behind Time*, *Losing Cotton*, *Fallen*, *The Rubicon*, *The Apostate* and *Angels in the Ozarks*, a nonfiction, baseball history book.*

~ \*♦\*❁\*♦\* ~

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