

after years of dedicated field research
i have determined
the number one cause of death
for haiku poets and poetesses.

first
what it is not...
being crushed to death by falling cherry blossoms
collateral damage by crashing clouds
piercing sounds of absolute silence
transcendental moonlight
unresolved zen riddles
mountain streams
scents of nature
distant stars
allness
or sudden exposure to sonnets.

death
for haiku poets and poetesses is far more complex.

but how do you
convince
haiku writers
that the frog is not staring at them...

instead
it is staring
at the intensely coiled snake directly behind their back
and before any heightened spiritual awareness
that comes from the frog splash
they feel
the strike that breaks
through their meditative flesh

and then it is too late
to complete the required
five syllables of the last line.

the number one cause of death for haiku poets.
wf.h.
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