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XXIV

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Ware: XXIV

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Joshua A. Ware

If political leaders spend their time

playing canasta, burrowed away in
back rooms of a mountain casino.

If a country's flag, stitched into an emblem
of someone else's breakdown³, becomes

a trans-national asylum for the sick.

If a thesaurus navigates an archaic
seascape, drifting limitless across
a tumid wave train at an orgy.

If reflecting pools reflect back an image

in which the origin no longer exists⁴.

If words put to music sigh with computers.

If nuclear stand-offs could once again
be the stuff that beauty is made of.

XL (CONTINUED)

There are no more quiet places to read.

³Berrigan, Ted: (1934-1983) semi-famous American soldier who spent sixteen months in Korea.

⁴Derrida, Jacques: 1. (1930-2004) deified French stimulant-abuser. 2. entry after "derrick" in the 2002 *Oxford English Reference Dictionary* (revised second edition).