

Laundry

WILL WALKER

It's what separates us from the beasts.

Plato did not say I only wear
the idea of laundry; this toga needs
no cleaning, for I merely spill

the essence of lamb fat on it;
that splotch of tzatziki
is just a concept.

No, he did the thing so common
among us: shed his toga and left it
for his wife, after many reminders.

*Plato, you have an important symposium
on the idea of evil; who will find
your thoughts fresh if you're clad
in smears of moussaka?*

He could not argue with her logic,
or the way she twisted her face
when dramatizing her colloquy.

It's what separates us from the beasts.

Some chimps wear vests,
but only their handlers know
when to call it laundry.

This is what distinguishes us
from the apes.