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Boy with blanket

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"Red Valley," acrylic, Elaine Verdill

First and foremost, it is a shield
against monsters dragging
buckets of sludge —
water across matted shag.
It's about his size,
maybe a bit bigger than
out-stretched arms asked to neatly fold
a square cloth. Cover this
body, a ghost
from all possible angles.
Light let in only
if there is light to begin with.

Nicolas Visconti studies creative writing and has work forthcoming in Prelude Magazine.

A long-time photographer and poet, Elaine Verdill also paints with acrylics. Her images can be found in such publications as Calyx, A Journal of Art and Literature for Women; Foliate Oak Literary Magazine and The Sonder Review.