

# Poem by Rachel Hadas

## *Inspissation*

Definitions. Density. Conundrum.  
Condensation. Etymology.  
Abstraction and the hissing as of air  
escaping. And indeed, the atmosphere  
becomes so thick that vision fogs  
up like a windshield in the wet.  
Socked in: was this what the word meant?  
The bright and baggy world gone blank,  
The world, capacious, starts to shrink:  
tugging of tendrils, tightening  
of texture, so our habitat,  
already a snug fit, begins  
to fold its wings, draw in and in.  
Crisscross of kinships, instances,  
recognitions and reunions,  
coincidences, fertilizations  
at an ever thickening pace,  
blanket of fog and muffling mist,  
crosshatching of the busy thin  
but countless filaments scribbling  
to chiaroscuro, then obscure,  
almost opaque, unnumbered, slight  
only if taken one by one,  
but thickly strewn, oh I am caught,  
the small world tighter, smaller, clasps me,  
blinds me: inspissation.

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