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## Grey Bears

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SUSAN BLICK

I hate  
conflict  
the opposition of right and wrong.  
I much prefer a truce,  
the monotony of calmness.  
But you insist  
on prodding me  
for an answer that would satisfy  
your  
need to know.  
Not necessarily my answer  
because what I say is usually  
a thinly veiled half-truth and  
never the whole  
because you have already decided  
what you want me to tell you.  
And while you have been poking me  
with your verbal stick  
I've been thinking  
Gee, that kinda hurts.  
But you went right on poking me.  
You couldn't leave it alone  
rephrasing the same question  
rehashing the same tired subject  
and so  
I told you  
what you didn't want to hear  
but exactly what I wanted to say.

So now why are you crying  
and making such a fuss  
over what I thought  
but didn't want to say.  
If you didn't mean to know  
the whole truth  
why did you ask  
and then keep  
poking me with your stick.  
Besides, you know  
things aren't always  
black and white  
and you know that I  
much prefer  
shades of grey.