

# Forces

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## H Town Life

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## **Promised Land**

**Brian Cummings**

They arrive on grey ribbons of  
looping, circling, twisting  
highways, runways  
blending, merging, bringing  
pilgrims, supplicants  
gripping diplomas, green cards, visas.  
Résumés and recommendations rise  
through the hot dry air.  
They circle the Kaaba,  
begging for entry  
to chrome and glass chapels  
raised to Plutus.  
Once a desert, now an endless carpet of  
McMansions for the chosen people,  
dotted with megachurches,  
ornate mosques, synagogues and temples  
welcoming all (like us) in friendship.  
Winners blame their wins on their god.  
Losers find in prayer and worship  
the hope denied them in commerce.  
All find a place on the ladder,  
even the ones on the lower rungs  
who blame their fate on those even lower.



**H Town Life**

**Lisa K. Dorman**

## **Don't Push Me**

**A.J. Sanchez**