

Reclamation (for crazy jane)

I washed the sheets we made love on
the blankets we slept under
every piece of clothing in the hamper that
might still have a scent of you.

I cleaned the towel that caressed your dripping body
the kitchen hand towels too, just in case
I tossed your toothbrush in the bathroom wastebasket
knotted up the liner
took it to the trash bin and
set it on the curb for the trash man to take away

I cleaned the entire house of you
vacuumed, mopped,
took a moist cloth across the
windowsills, table tops and even around the legs
and baseboards
removed every spec of dust
did you know something like 80% of dust is dead skin cells
yours and mine
even those are gone now

I meditated,
visualized releasing all ties to you and into me
saged the house until I could barely see through the smoke
that burns out the smell of you
all this done in ritual
to reclaim the life I had
not so long ago
before you.