

A WHOLE CIVILIZATION
WILL DIE TONIGHT
By Michael DuBois

My son needs lunch, and I have
to put his backpack together,
but a whole civilization will
die tonight, so I'm wondering
if they've closed their schools.
Like, a snow day, maybe,
except instead of snow it's
"Keep your children home so
if you die, you die together"
instead of "we'll open back up
once the plows have cleared" it's
we don't know if we'll be here
tomorrow, hold your babies tight."
It's just "talk" I'm told,
which I've been told before.
"It's how the president makes his deals."
But I've never heard anyone talk about
other human beings this way, and I'm
not certain I can look my son in the eyes
if we all agree to stomach it one more time.
A civilization will die tonight,
but as I zip up his backpack and
kiss him off to school I think:
if this is what we call leadership
then I'm not entirely sure ours
isn't already dead.