



LEGEND

John Warner Smith

My granddaddy used to say:
took God six days to make the world,
took Ali one day to turn it upside down.

He said Ali trained by wrestling alligators,
and cutting down trees with one hand.

One day Ali was shadowboxing
blindfolded at the bottom of Biscayne Bay
and wrestled two great white sharks.

He said he saw one fight when Ali came out
with one arm in a sling and TKO'd a guy
in the third round. Another time,

Ali came out in a straitjacket, the kind
Houdini used to wear, and about halfway
the first round the other fighter
was on his back taking the long count.

He said Ali had a secret knockout punch
that he used a couple of times, but his hands
were so fast if you blinked you missed it.

He said one night Ali was whipping a fellow
so bad that everybody's television started
smoking, then blew up in the middle of the fight.

Another time, Ali had been on the ropes
for 14 rounds, tough fight. 15th round,
he came out dancing, jabbing, hooking,
but his feet never touched the canvas,
not once. The poor fellow he beat said
it was like seeing Jesus walking on the sea.