

Bob Hicok

FIRST DO NO HARM

While trying to extract a fly from a spider web,
I pulled one of its legs off.

There is the thought of small prosthetics, image
of a tiny hospital, tiny being too big a word
for the nano-this and micro-that, calipers
and scalpels and whats-its.

Once I grant soul, it's hard to stop.

Does a carrot have any, and if any, more than cucumber
but less than squash?

Philosophy should lead to salad.

I was trying to help. By this phrase
we have watch fob, atomic bomb, the Red Cross, how often
does anyone believe otherwise, does anyone say,
I was trying to muck things up.

A limping fly
Were I a Hindu, I'd say it was or will be me.

I like that as the name of a river: Wasorwillbe.

The Wasorwillbe flooded, hundreds were killed.
Six months later,
the best crop of wheat in a century.

I see a boat, a man asleep in the boat, his hand asleep
on the water, a fly asleep on his hand.