Epistrophe: The Return

charred tomb parked outside police station
blackened mudguard  shattered tinted windscreen
hang over cliff’s edge  opposite soccer stadium wall
farewell seascape of his youth

parents died without seeing their émigré son again
he served rich diners in New York  saw the twin towers fall
dreamed of retirement reunited with siblings
and friends in village of his birth

at last aged pension  savings  farewells  return
a renewed life marred with bitterness
social misunderstandings  petty jealousies
inheritance squabbles preceded the final insult

onslaught of malignancy  contradictory medical opinions
bereft of therapeutic options  cared for by strangers
Will witnessed by friend from childhood
*Look what I’ve become! Is this how man ends!*  he’d said

dared not reveal his plan  inquisitive townsfolk
stop and stare at skeleton of his car
death notices pinned on Church hoardings
rumours abound  *He must have had problems.*  They decide
accident foul play suicide?
his life a bag of ash
self-immolation rebuff to Orthodoxy
retribution for feigned kinship and sorrow

_Loula S. Rodopoulos_
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