step left as right wrist cinches beneath fisted handle of sword —fighting for more than myself diagonal slash over opponent's katana, right ankle clenches to withstand strength from counter-strike two steps back, straight block with wakizashi —shorter than opponent yet quicker too smaller sword allows maneuverability & speed, bigger katana provides greater range & powerful downward strikes but slower reaction, opening slit between elbow & armpit, slice straps of armor, sliver of blood slouching down torso pumps mine up —twisting tornado through trial & error except error equals death parry by redirecting his blade past mine, launching around to kick him from behind not enough momentum so he stumbles no tumble —ego wounded getting briefly overpowered by a girl toxic masculinity perpetrating psyche could prove useful, mental warfare during dance battle of bodies cobra-man blitzes while I'm distracted, quadruple strike slash pattern threatens to sever tendons & heartstrings —BLOCK! DODGE! HEADSHOT WATCH OUT! fly past flashing steel, distance oneself, orient center adrenal glands scream frustration, end him before death aims scythe by opponent's hand frontal charge, dive between upward slash, cut his knee with hidden blade he slips back, assesses balance I rise & guard chest with steel crossed —a challenge charge with spirit of a thousand swords tremble before an armored angel death by a million cuts from the tongue of my blade