

For Immediate Release

Assembling the Lord
Selected Poems 1995–2008
Raymond J. Cummings



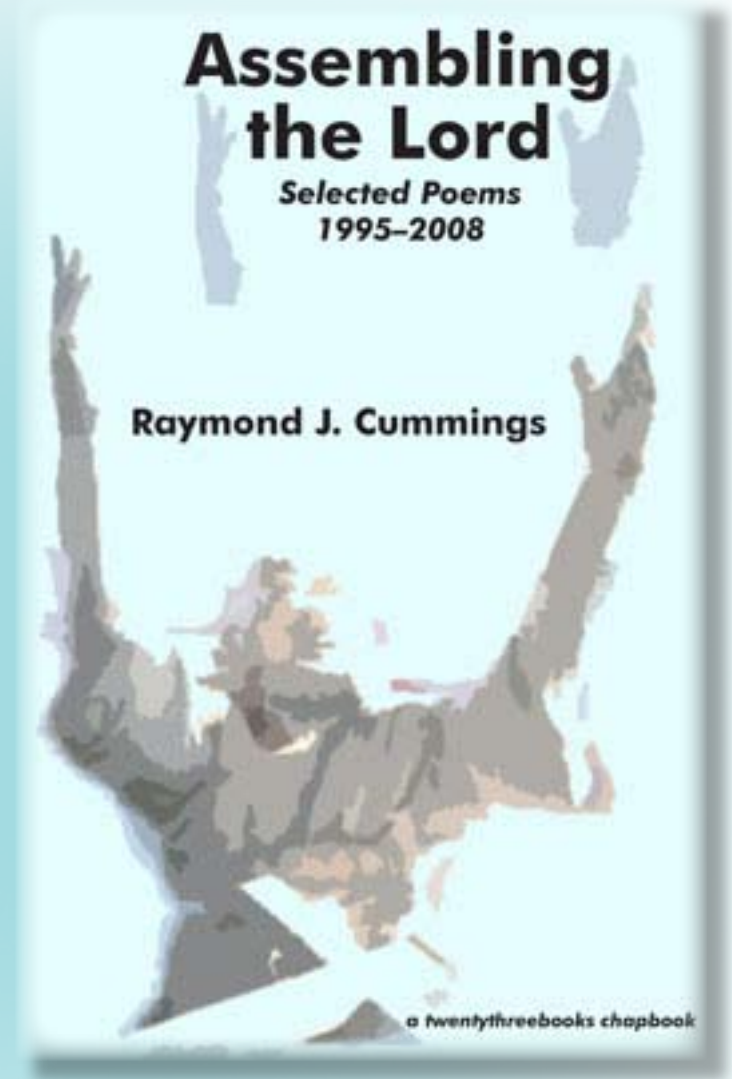
Raymond Cummings writes, criticizes, edits, proofreads, and generally would be completely and utterly lost in a world without words. He prefers his consumed/external poetry cryptic, oblique, broken; his fiction stuffed with allusion and foreshadowing; his magazine articles endless. He'd agitate and activate, if only there were more time and resources at hand. He finds that the third-person wears out its welcome way, way too quickly. Raymond Cummings doesn't have any literary or journalistic awards to brag about—yet. Publications where his work has appeared include *The Village Voice*, *MAGNET*, *Paperthinwalls.com*, *Baltimore City Paper*, and *Signal-to-Noise*, plus a bunch of zines. He lives in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania with his wife and child.

“Assembling the Lord is nifty. Beautifully produced—a true eye-grabber. He jingles notes—personal ones—that resonate with astounding precision. Quite possibly we all get what we prey for, pay for, pray for, but until we see these things stated and SHARED we fear they might be unique to the point of drastic loneliness. Ray makes communion of them—holy or otherwise.”

Omar Shapli, author of *The General is Asked His Opinion* and *THEM*

“When I read Ray’s poems, it feels like the words are firing into my brain like bullets. His simplest phrases—“plucked cars, blown up dandelions”—pack such a punch, but his ideas and images stay sharp whether crammed into two-syllable bursts or stretched into spilling rhythms. Take these poems like pills, wear a flak jacket too—you’ll be surprised by how much shrapnel can result from such quick, efficient verse.”

Marc Masters, author of *No Wave*



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