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## Vitals

So thin as to shatter  
my father walked

our street block  
mechanically—

every bone—  
bulged joint

revealed in its  
pivotal work.

On jacketless,  
stark days

he alarmed  
the trails of eyes

placing him moments  
from a toppling death,

not at the corner  
store for more.

He's a living skeleton,  
they'd warn my mother.

No, she'd casually reply,  
He's a pension check.