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George Looney is a renowned writer of poetry and fiction, having three award-winning fiction collections -- a novel, *Respect from a Place of Burning*, a novella, *Hymn of Ash*, and a short story collection titled *The Worst May Be Over*. He is a Professor of English and Creative Writing at Penn State Erie, where he founded a BFA in Creative Writing Program – and has published works with *BOA Editions*, *AGNI*, *The American Journal of Poetry*, and many other publishers.

The Visibility of Things Long Submerged is a collection of short stories that correlate to each other, from preachers performing sacrilegious acts to hospitalizing a man with wounds of a symbolic fire, Looney's writing leaves readers pondering over the role of religion and how it enacts in a person's life. Throughout each story, Looney includes the perspective of a character who has either witnessed sacrilegious acts, from preachers curing people using worms, snakes, or gators, or people who have been told stories of such healers.

In the story "What Gives Us Voice," -- which is written from the perspective of three people labeled as the Preacher, the healer boy's Sister, and a Believer -- Looney writes about a preacher by the name of Phineas whose technique of healing was dependent on worms. To begin his practice, Phineas tells the sinner to whisper their sins to a worm, which he then swallows, and allows it to travel through his intestines before it crawls back to his mouth. Looney writes, "This was Phineas' way of swallowing the sin and suffering for others without being poisoned." With this statement Looney captures the essence of belief using magical realism to showcase the strength in belief these characters have and the effects in participating in these practices.

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It's worth mentioning how well tones of deception are incorporated while detailing the tension between the two characters. Considering the theme of this collection of stories revolves around religious beliefs, we find a change in motion toward religion when the protagonist – of the story “The Under The Rivers Humming Cross Of Rome, Georgia” – describes his relationship with his priest father. The best way Looney describes this tension is when he writes, “Nights my father had too much of the wrong kind of alcohol and was acting more like the Old Testament God than the God of love he preached about....” Not only can readers envision a concept of the protagonist’s father, but also decipher the two-sidedness between the God of love and the Old Testament God. Similar to how the protagonist’s father reveals an internal, rageful personality only around his son, preachers commit the same act on who God is by withholding that information.

Looney’s description of senses captures the essence of the lingering effect of our actions in the story “Hymn of Ash,” when writing about the man covered in ash and burn marks from a fire. Looney writes, “It seemed as though whatever fire he had come from through was not done inside him but burned on.” Not only does this statement describe a visual effect of this man’s past, but Looney specifically chooses a fire to represent the emotional and physical turmoil that had come out of this man’s actions.

The Visibility of Things Long Submerged insights readers to reflect on the role religion partakes in life. By incorporating human emotion and turmoil and including elements of magical realism, readers can feel more connected to the relevance and effect of religion that partook in each of these

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characters' lives. This then allows readers to contemplate the role and effect that religion has on their lives, and how it may affect them as a person.