

Down to the Studs – Sheth LaRue

“To make something new,” He says,  
“you have to dismantle something else.”  
My Father would often start with old houses  
and slowly, meticulously, He would deconstruct  
that which was once useful; before us:

    Crumbling lath-and-plaster walls  
    containing archaic insulation;  
    corroded lead pipes and  
    cracked terra cotta drains.

    Once good for those old ancient of days,  
    but now, no longer usable or useful in its condition.

    “Most of it has to go away,” He says,  
        “most – not all – because there’s something  
        here worth salvaging.  
        We just have to get to it.”

    “Take this...” handing me a hammer  
    They say, “...it’s for building up and/  
    or, tearing down. Learning how to use it takes time.”

    With patience, the Father helps me -  
    slowly, intentionally, and with a good Spirit.

    Where the past ended, we’d begin:  
    de-creation of this house, though,  
    demanded that I make choices, and  
    decisions have lasting effects.

    “do not worry, I tell you...have faith;  
    you know what needs to come down,  
    and if you go too far,” She says,  
    “I will re-form what’s been broken.”  
    Together, we have to dismantle something  
    to make something new.