

## **The Line Between Boys and Men**

Marcel Martinez

What differentiates boys from men?  
My old man always said the hair  
on your upper lip makes you  
a man. But i thought that it was the will  
to be mature and wise  
rather than getting caught up in ego.

But is it ego  
That makes one turn into a man?  
Grandpa told me the one  
who chooses to go without their hair  
is the one who will  
always prosper; you

should always follow your  
dreams and fulfill the dreams of others, not your ego.  
But who actually, willingly,  
goes for their dreams? Not a man  
in my house— it was more so the facial hair  
that held the line between the boys and the ones

Who weren't so. But that one  
thing—is that enough— even after you,  
yourself grow facial hair  
and choose the path of dreams after being blinded by ego.  
But i still felt i was not a man.  
But will

that make me a man— will  
it! Even though i still felt i was the one  
who was sitting upon the line between boys and men.  
Even after I've

graduated from the school of egoism  
and shaved every last strand of hair

On my head. Only the hair  
On my upper lip remains. Do i have the will  
to actually bare my face without hair  
for the one  
life that will truly make me  
a man?