**The Man that Lives**

“What good is social class and status? Truthfulness is measured within. Pride in one's status is like poison - holding it in your hand and eating it, you shall die.” (Sri Guru Granth Sahib) In Identities by W.D. Valgardson, a man who is bored of his neighborhood decides to go for a drive in his Mercedes Benz. He becomes lost when he concludes the neighborhood he grew up in is not as friendly as he remembers, and he suddenly feels guilty when he realizes he has not notified his wife that he is going out. In an effort to call her, he gets shot by an inexperienced policeman who assumes the man was reaching for a gun, when he was really grabbing his identity. The man is oblivious to the fact that there is a police car following him; “So intent is he upon the future that he dangerously ignores the present and does not notice the police car.” This foreshadowing of the events proves that the man was not intentionally trying to dodge the police or get away from the apparent stolen Mercedes Benz. Although the man “reaches his hand not in the air as he was ordered to, but toward his wallet for his identity” his wallet was not in a place where it is probable that a gun could be concealed. Just moments before, the narrator states “he slips his wallet into his shirt pocket, does up the metal buttons on his jacket” the man put his wallet into his shirt pocket, so when he reaches for his wallet, he must unbutton the metal buttons on his jacket and grab his wallet from his shirt. If the policeman was thinking logically and not out of fear, the man would not have been unjustly shot. The policeman is inexperienced and “who is suspicious because of the car and because he has been trained to see an unshaven man in blue jeans as a potential thief and not as a probable owner”. The officer has an impaired judgement of the situation and be impulsive rather then reasonable because of his inexperience. The prejudice that the policeman held against people in a lower social class, led to an innocent man being killed, and the unjust policeman, alive.