

Robert K. Johnson

On A Street Corner

Her blue-grey hair a proof
neatness still exists;
her cheeks chubby with contentment:

a woman serene as sunlight
waits for the light to change.

Next to her, a snake-thin boy
gently tilts the top
of her unzipped bag

closer to his eyes
and lets his fingers rummage.

By the time she sees, he's done
and, mindless as water, flows
away. She checks her bag's contents,

rechecks, finds nothing missing
except her world.

Robert K. Johnson is a retired English professor from Suffolk University in Boston, MA. Johnson has been widely published in the small press. He is the author of nine collections of poetry, his latest being: "From Mist to Shadow" (Ibbetson 2007). Johnson has also written two critical studies, one of Francis Ford Coppola, and the other of Neil Simon. He is a winner of the Ibbetson Street Press Lifetime Achievement Award along with other notables such as: Robert Pinsky, David R. Godine, Louisa Solano, and Jack Powers. He is served as submission editor for the literary magazine: "Ibbetson Street."