

Ron A. Kalman

Faint Light

I'm not the sort who awakens before the sun rises.
If you choose to brave a run
on the hard pavement in the morning chill
while trolleys creak into action
that's fine but I prefer the solitude of a warm room
the soft glow of a lamp and the quiet that comes
after the day's traffic is reduced to a whisper.
I prefer the thoughts contained in a good book
that might penetrate the mind and change it
or even inspire a thought of one's own.
There's a certain feel to a pristine thought
before it's seen the light of day before
it's been trampled by the onrush
of the morning news streaming from radios and TVs.
It might bear the delicacy of a leaf
fluttering to the ground which if looked at closely
contains the universe in microcosm
but which later is swept aside
with the rest of the debris on the street.
I'm not the sort who awakens before the sun rises
but on occasion it has risen before I've gone to sleep.

Ron A. Kalman is a graduate of the Emerson College MFA program. His poems and translations have appeared in *Beacon Street Review*, *Exquisite Corpse*, *The Exquisite Corpse Annual* and other publications. He lives near Boston where he is a frequent visitor to the many coffeehouses and dwindling number of bookstores in the area.