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## Formal Dream State

Ed Zahniser

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## FORMAL DREAM STATE

Ed Zahniser

I dream Basho on the narrow road  
to the far north laying down his steps  
like written characters. He knows  
precisely every breath relationship  
between the journey and each metaphor.  
His brush pen mapping progress  
topples a saké glass and wakes me  
to his paperback on the night stand  
and thoughts of how its tight-packed  
squared-off angles might impress him as  
a narrow coffin for such flights of fancy.