

sitting like desks thousands  
 and thousands  
 of desks your acme markets and the parking  
 lots behind the  
 acme markets your stick ball  
 sticks and all the broken fingers  
 from playing  
 with stick ball sticks your golden parkway  
 accident expressway  
 to those square acre city  
 dumps north of jersey city  
 but now  
 i hear the cosmic moving of my grandmother's  
 cotton nightgown  
 ah tea is served

### supermarket

-- for elain

i hate taking her  
 to the supermarket she gets  
 away from me in the melons and surprises me  
 in front of the  
 check out counters where she  
 french kisses  
 me before everyone usually  
 this angers me makes me  
 feel like lifting  
 weights but occasionally when the kiss  
 is like  
 fruit i'll smile and let it go

-- Robert Carande

Ona, WV

### Quest

I asked a man  
 about death  
 and he said he could contribute  
 nothing except  
 his life.

We admired the legs  
 of a passing girl.

I asked him  
 about life  
 and he said

it left something  
to be desired.

He asked for the time  
and I noticed  
that he had no face,  
no hands.

### Good Humor

no one is laughing  
everybody looks for signs

lips move  
like concrete mixers  
like grass wavering in the wind

beavers diddle in the hay  
and cats tune their guts  
for a tactical dance

sacred cows in wire pastures  
coddle their agendas  
count down their up

dogs see everything as sport  
and heed a master voice  
that chokes on nightly harks

dishes bask in suntanned cupboards  
dripped dry from hasty puddings

silver sleeps in drawers  
under the weather wear

the ice cream is melting

-- Ben Tibbs

Kalamazoo, MI

NOTES:::  
Seeking lyric poems: Karen & John Sollin, eds. new Spring Rain, P.O. Box 15319 Wedgwood Stat., Seattle WA 98115. ¶  
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