

JERKING AWAKE

Jerking awake
not-knowing
where you are
suddenly startled
asking yourself
"what day is it?",
"what time is it?"

Jerking awake
—it comes from
sleeping places
they don't use sheets
—it comes from
forgetting you were
born into a daylight land.

Jerking awake
—it comes from remembering,
from wandering barefoot
inside subways of the mind
where days-of-the-week and times-of-the-day
melt like Dali's watch over
the cold border others call reality.

—Bonnie Raingruber