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# Two Poems

Ernest Sandeen

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# Two Poems

ERNEST SANDEEN

## Dog Drinking at Night

In the darkened house he drinks  
and drinks me gradually awake  
to a new rhythm happening to water.

Like a fountain at first,  
glittering on the ear.  
But no—darker, closer to earth,

thirst of tongue that keeps  
time to what it thirsts for,  
liquid beat, cadence

salted away in the blood.

And dog and man pulsate  
to primal wonder like fin and wing  
whenever what is needed, is.

## Designs for Sleep

My sleeping marrow rearranges  
me again. For what watchers  
in the dark do these bone-ends dipped in my blood  
trace kaleidoscopes of trunk  
and branches, swivel-neck and crown?

They shift their contrivances of me  
on a bed without edges. Although the shapes  
breathe hard, I'm not yet bleeding out.  
I stay inside all their changes of design.  
Night by night I go in deeper.