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In the Poet's House

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MARGARET GIBSON

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More than the Philokalia or the small brown cross on the white-
washed wall,
the kitchen light switch is the teaching.

One puts aside the ache of ambition. The hurry of hunger one
puts out the door
into a dish for the cats. One must stand there

and slowly turn the switch—it is round, like the sun—until a faint
hitch in the turning
says *now*, and the light flickers on.

Each moment is like this—a genesis in the Gospel of Gentleness.