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Happy in Sunlight

William Stafford

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empty as big dark windows
will line up for you.
Like that, I was here, and I stopped too.
Somewhere in stillness the lights
came on, for their own pale being,
and I listened with all my life
for something else, quickly, the way you do.

Happy in Sunlight / William Stafford

Maybe it's out by Glass Butte some
time in late fall, and sage owns the whole
world. Even the obsidian chips
left by the Indians glitter, out of
their years. Last night's eager stars
are somewhere, back of the sky.

Nothing where you are says, "It's me
only." No matter how still the day,
a fence wire hums for whatever there is,
even if no one is there. And sometimes
for luck, by neglecting to succeed that day,
you're there, no one else, and the fence wire sings.