

Legions of Fear

I look out through my curtains
and see fear reigning supreme

the streets are becoming more
godless
&
loveless
but not
fearless

the TV
constantly
reminds us
to cross the street
when a black man approaches

it shows us footage
of a bomb blowing up a school

political pundits
are polarizing the media
filling it with hate
and disgust

filling the public with fear
making us a public of fear

we must fear the enemy
we must fear the bomb
we must fear the world
we must fear each other

it's a crashing wave of fear

our lawns are drowning in it

we fear without knowing why
but it's better to fear first
than die

we allow stereotypes

to dictate our emotions
and we bring fear into homes
and feed it to our children
at supper time

legions and legions of fear

drowning us in it
falsely

sure there are things to fear
but what you should
fear most is yourself

what power you can wield
in an ultimately weak world

paranoia spreads like a match on dead leaves

there is no time to edit this poem
because I could be killed at any second

the fear is creeping up my leg
as we speak

I am writing this like a cockeyed
ransom note
because the fear has become too great

it is in our homes
in our schools
because the television
is constantly vomiting up
fear
and the stench is so strong
it lingers in our nostrils

we taste it when we lick the tops of our mouths
our eyes are blinded by it

by god!
another person gunned down!
When will it end?!

It will never end

only when we're all dead
which could be at any moment

let us be paralyzed
let us bathe in fear
soak in it
blow bubbles in it

be taken over by it
suffocated by it
strangled by it

day and night

breakfast
lunch
and dinner

fear
fear
fear

F E A R

it all seems
pretty silly
when you realize
there is nothing to fear
except fear itself.