



Mosaic artwork from 149th Street subway station by José Ortega for MTA Arts for Transit

Let Me Stop

Jeremy Davis

Winner, Poetry Society of America
Poetry in Motion, 10th Anniversary Contest
Young Adult Category, selected by Sandra Cisneros

I wish this po'm to oblige her, kindly,
but I shouldn't sign my name to these words—
I should just keep admiring her qui'tly
'cause I can't write like her beauty deserves:

my pen's too slight to boldly show her face,
on a page too dim and pale to be kind
reflecting her eyes, shined 'neath arched brows' lace,
easily recalled as paired polished rhyme—

by that light a bird takes flight from finger,
whistles o'er her river and limber streams,
palms aflutter o'er standing waves in her
that softly through their curvy banks careen—

but I'll bid the bird hide and stop whistling
so she won't catch it, annoyed at list'ning.

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