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It Happens Like This

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It Happens Like This

When the Alzheimer's patient remembers,
he savors reason.

When he doesn't remember,
his dreams are lost
as they fall behind a curtain, and
his mind is a snake
that twists yesterday into a mumble,
tomorrow into a cough,
today into lost,
and the moment into the only
thing that exists.

That's when he becomes
a hawk, circling while the snake
zigzags inside his mind,
terror flogging its frenzy,
and he's caught in a terminal
whirling, watching, swinging,
as his mind moves in circles that,
against his bidding, turn into squares

-Carol Bell
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