

## **The End Is Near**

The end is near  
I fear for I am  
of late befriended  
by medicine women,  
ailments diagnosed  
by noses masked  
above white jackets,  
dismissed out of hand  
by healers who once  
upon a time  
blamed them on my  
distressed freight

The end is near  
I fear for I read  
obituaries  
with interest,  
detailed accounts  
body counts  
funeral customs  
with more concern:  
pennies on eyes  
subway tokens  
under the tongue  
in tribute to spirit  
no longer attached  
the flesh and blood  
the matter at hand

The end is near  
I fear for I love  
this world  
more than heavens  
religions propound,  
forms and ideas  
science imagines,  
paint-by-numbers  
mind games  
deep thinkers  
project

The end is near  
I fear for dreams

wake me  
in the dark of night  
unable to find  
about me what the eye  
myself in the dream  
was looking for

The end is near  
I fear for love  
so sweet who  
came before  
as fury, siren,  
Kwan Yin  
might be  
the death angel  
foregone conclusion  
case closed  
sentence period