

Over There

Sometimes
out of the corner
of my eye
I get a glimpse
of my life.

In a flash
in a moment—
over there—
I see it clearly.

Quickly then
I make a shopping list
or rent a video.
Quickly, I look away.

Merle Feld

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All the Vows

All the vows on our lips,
the burdens in our hearts,
the pent-up regrets about
which we brooded and spoke
through prayers without end
on last Atonement Day
did not change our way of life,
did not bring deliverance
in the year that has gone.
From mountain peaks of fervor
we fell to common ways
at the close of the fast.

Will You hear our regret?

Will You open our prison,
release us from shackles of habit?

Will you accept our prayers,
forgive our wrongs,
though we sin again and again?

In moments of weakness
we do not remember
promises of Atonement Day.
Recall that we easily forget,
take only our heart's intent.
Forgive us, pardon us.

Ze'ev Falk

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