

ARIZONA WELCOMES THE EAST

Downpour.
Texas raining as a wall,
Conceals the road ahead.
Slowly I drive
Awaiting relief,
Which comes before Dallas.
The last pass
Before burning desert rays.

Texan desert.
Brown tan dirt and shrubs.
Oil pumps and hills.
White cattle lying
In random rare shade.
The setting sun melts.
An orange puddle of light
Spreads dying on the Texas floor.

Darkness.
Narrow head beams.
Reveal the night pavement.
Traffic dissipates.
I am alone.
The lonely easterner
Travels for miles
On abandon desert night Texan Highways.
The only light to be seen.

Miles away
Earth bound stars appear
Creating a white dome
In the dark blue heavens.

I wait.
Listening to four tapes
Play
Over
And
Over.

Highway signs litter the road's edge.
Passing cars hunk echoing horns.
The white dome becomes the heavens.

I know now the stars

That give the desert life.
El Paso at night.

Cramped highways run over the city
Which hides like a beacon at sea.
Night goes,
Drinkers looking to fight the dawn.
70 mph
To another bar,
Another beer.

Soon Texas is gone.

Black lightless sheets
Bore my mind
In New Mexico.
Nothing—
But highways.
Please let the night pass
With New Mexico behind.
But wait,
The mirror wants a word.
A pale blue sky
Fighting to catch me.

Faster I drive. 80 mph.
The light will never beat me
To Arizona.
But does.

The orange painted mountains
Show the sun has triumphed,
Gracefully taking the night
And shaming into shade,
As Arizona welcomes
The east.