

Ray Keifetz

The Dove's Nest

(home of the "Two for Two" breakfast)

This is the place
where everything comes in pairs—
the bacon, the eggs
(as if even an egg could know loneliness),
where two bucks gets you
hotcakes the size of heartaches,
where farmers and haulers
perch on alternate stools like checker men
waiting to be moved.

See how they stir when the door opens,
how all eyes rise
from the coffee dark confessionals,
every separate one of us
looking to the door through which
no one has ever come
for anyone.

This is where you've brought me,
you've brought me here
to this nesting place of birds
who stand for love
where day after day
I sit
staring at the pairs on my plate,
the unbelievable price.