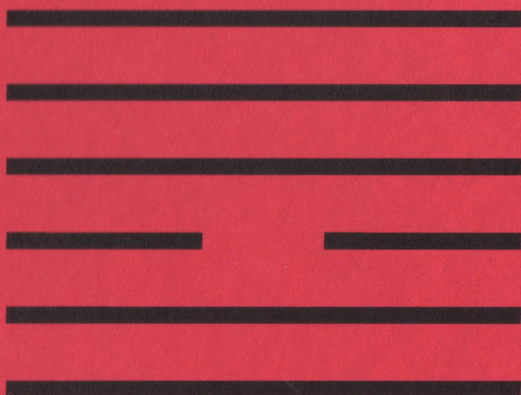


# Between the Chimes



Charles Trumbull



**Cover: Hexagram 10 Treading Carefully**

When treading upon the tail of a tiger, if it does not bite  
you have success. For the weak to take a stand against  
the strong is not dangerous if it happens in good humour.

*The I Ching*

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first day of autumn  
the bee crosses over  
to the neighbor's yard

## **Between the Chimes**

all faces turn toward  
the sunflower field

the night is so long

the night is so long







first day of autumn  
the bee crosses over  
to the neighbor's yard

my ancestor's grave—  
I linger there awhile  
after the rain starts

line drive to center  
all faces turn toward  
the sunflower field

the bell rings  
again the playground fills  
with pigeons

farmer's market  
the mushroom man  
seems older this year

in the bed  
of the pickup from upstate  
yellow leaves

on a diet;  
I weigh myself again  
after shaving

farmers' market  
the mushroom man  
seems older this year



my ancestor's grave—  
I linger there awhile  
after the rain starts

the bell rings  
again the playground fills  
with pigeons

in the bed  
of the pickup from upstate  
yellow leaves

election posters  
a neighborhood dog  
marks his choice

on a diet;  
I weigh myself again  
after shaving

on my copy of  
Robert's Rules of Order  
a dried speck of blood

farmers' market  
the mushroom man  
seems older this year



hurricane warning  
the boy boards up the windows  
of the doghouse

October chill  
a squirrel browses for food  
along the third rail

nearly dusk . . .  
the shadow of her tombstone  
reaches his

welcoming me home  
at the commuter station  
someone else's basset

winter solstice—  
in the antique store, a toy  
from my childhood



the carpenter's  
insistent hammering—  
first snowflakes

with my Cheerios  
and another missing child

flurries . . .  
a child asks if he can ride  
in the house too

thinking deeply  
about my principles—  
a wave collapses

inch of snow  
something must be wrong  
with a dog's leg

flurries . . .  
a child asks if he can ride  
in the hearse too



alone  
with my Cheerios  
and another missing child

thinking deeply  
about my principles—  
a wave collapses

bait shop  
the cute salesgirl  
flirting

grocery line—  
the dancer's feet  
in fourth position

summer downpour—  
the bronze boy in the park  
keeps on peeing

after gassing up  
we pass the same trucks  
all over again

dragonflies mating—  
the outboard motor  
coughs into life

male frigate bird:  
his bold display attracts a female  
photographer



late to the office  
my desk already piled high  
with zucchini

pansies    we smile back

reading Santōka . . .  
it would be wonderful  
to quit my job

hailstorm  
the city child asks  
after the scarecrow

click of the shutter  
the whole family  
exhales together

lower and lower  
the bug climbing up  
the spear of grass

between  
the chimes of the clock  
shooting star



## Acknowledgements

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