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TORCH PASSING

Raymond P. Hammond

and there is much they don't teach us
when in youth we inhale their brains
learning, forgetting, yearning all
to be something more than we are
but what we don't much consider
we just savor, suckle and seek
not thinking beyond the thinking

and there is much they don't show us
but the lonely path of process
streetlighted road down town's main street
whose end is always at the edge
of night. Slight sight squinting to see
so slowly illuminated
until leaving us all alone

and there is much they don't leave us
except to learn without teachers
and a knowledge that is useless
unless passed on to crusaders
lighting their own streets through dark ages
who can never be shown where they
are going until we are gone