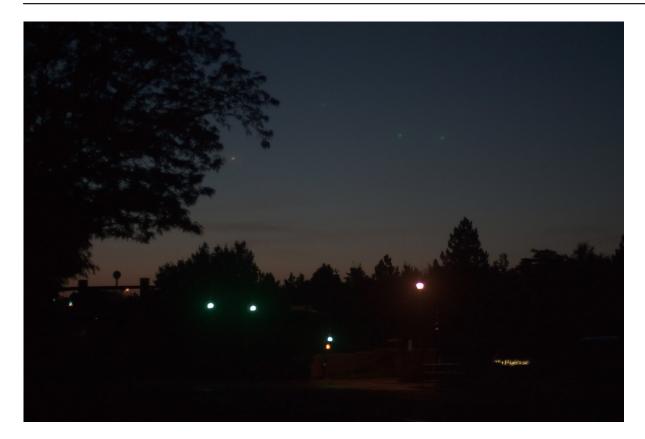
Yvonne M. Estrada: Poem [1]

March 5, 2014 Honoring Rukeyser [2]

In the Balance

In dark blue dawn downtown a man asks for change. My seven-year-old son watches me dig in a pocket. He asks "Why did you give him money?" I hold my breath while answers slide off the heap of reasons I could use to explain charity, poverty, loss, do unto others, or karma. His perfect needs-to-know face waits. I check with the sky, 6:00 a.m. and Morning Star holds a cosmic scale. In one pan are gas station, old muscle car, mother and son; the other pan will be filled with the words I say, destitute people my son will encounter, and future actions he will take. My response rushes out with my exhalation, "Because he doesn't have any, and we do." He nods like a monk, absorbs the weight of this. I watch him change; his young heart expands, and his world levels out for a time.

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Art Information

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Yvonne M. Estrada is a poet and photographer. She recently published a chapbook, *My* Name on Top of Yours, that contains a crown of sonnets illustrated by original photographs. Her poems have also appeared in *Mischief, Caprice and Other Poetic Strategies, Pulse Magazine, Verse Wisconsin,* and *GuerrillaReads.com* #8.

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- [1] https://talkingwriting.com/yvonne-m-estrada-poem
- [2] https://talkingwriting.com/talkingwriting-categories/spotlight-honoring-rukeyser
- [3] http://www.flickr.com/photos/ritingonthewall/277101624/

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