



From Art Makes Kids Smart

Carla Ann McGill

## The Advent Map

You are here. You face the furthest edge,  
far from the desolate lavishness of stores.  
Inside of time, caught, in construction  
and unsown seeds, confused into clarity.

How do you scale the smooth plateaus, the uplands,  
the hard rock of certainties imagined?  
Close to glacial realities, nonetheless  
move through mazes of matter, confident and clear.

There is a direction, definite  
and defined, a place in ruin,  
already pointless, no refreshment  
for children carrying ornaments home.

The east, the west, tug at war;  
in the north, tree farms fill with snow.  
Even in the southern soul-melting glare,  
all is closed and forsaken.

Just that side, past a rough country of longing,  
cross unsteady bridges. From there,  
go to the most distant spot and look up.  
Look up and find the shining, bright Star.

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Carla Ann McGill has poems either already published or forthcoming in *Inland Empire Magazine*, *A Clean Well-Lighted Place*, *Westerners Journal*, *Westview* and *Crack the Spine*.