



Image from Unsplash

Conrad Gurtatowski

## Sipping Alone

Peculiar

How the setting sun  
bisepts the tabletop  
at the outdoor café  
    Part sun  
    Part shade  
coffee in my hefty cup  
rippling like low tide  
in the wake of passing pedestrians

No one stopping to share a cup  
No one stopping to hear my stories

So it is just me and the Jamaican blend,  
roasted to enrich its flavor

And as the afternoon grows bored  
with my companionship  
the shadow rolls across the table  
like death's profile

while the Jamaican dawdles and cools  
at the bottom of my cup,  
as empty tables gather around me  
like bewildered disciples

Yet I stubbornly remain  
waiting for my cup to be refilled,  
and the chair across from me to be occupied.

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Conrad Gurtatowski's work has been published in *Barbaric Yawp*, *The Stray Branch*,  
*Blue Collar Review*, *Poet's Art*, and elsewhere.