

What the Rabbi Does on the Sabbath

Prays.

First prays, then eats.

Takes lunch in the sun, a text is on the table  
with commentaries in the margins.

Prays for the change of the one who is praying.

*What else.*

The Rabbi will tell a story.

In the story, God says, wait here. . . I will be right back.

The Rabbi lives in the ellipses.

*What else.*

The Rabbi will sing a song about yearning,  
a longing from the heart of the world

for the purest water in the universe.

All of the rabbi's dreams will be expressed  
in the language of longing,

sometimes it sounds like lovers,

but only on the Sabbath.

The rest of the week

it will be a growling in the belly.

*What else.*

After dreaming, studying, eating, praying, singing  
the Rabbi will speak one revolutionary idea

that rises out of emptiness,

an uncommon idea that

for twenty four hours

turns the world

upside down.

james stone goodman