

What's Next

What's next?
It's hard to know
when you can't see around the corner of time
or control your boat
in rough seas
and can't see the land you left
or beyond the next breaking wave
and your sails are down
and your motor's too weak
to turn the tide.

What's next?
It's hard to know
when you have lost a loved one
and have never really been alone before
without the usual sounds and smells
that make your place in life
complete.

What's next?
It's hard to know
when you are living in something called a pandemic
and watch too much tv
and walk six feet away
from the nearest human being
who also doesn't know
what's next.

I wish I knew more about tomorrow
than I do today
to regain control
over the expanding unknown
of an unnavigated future
which constantly violates
our self contained
places of sanctuary
where we live and try to sleep
not knowing
what's next.

What's next
when hope is reduced
to an inner whisper
that seems to fade in our hearts and head
but doesn't quite disappear
clinging to the belief
that ok is possible
and that we can arrive there
after we know what happens
next.

Lance J. Sussman