

Martin Tucker

WHAT WHITMAN WOULD HAVE SEEN SUNDAY

He was wearing bare feet on the Brooklyn Bridge
reading the New York Times.

Sleek as an arrow, his cord jeans pointed
to the choring strings of style.

Like a long day's summer
he swallowed the sunshine
never missing a flick
of the cinema section.

He eyed faces and toted figures,
not noticing the addition.
He tasted everything,
the world his exhibition.

Whitman would have known:

A man reading on the Brooklyn Bridge alone
with toes naked to the air
is sharing, is part of the human affair.