

The Coffee Poems

(for Voltaire who drank 40 cups a day)

Jordan Jones

1

What is the difference between drinking coffee
and being coffee?

2

Cups are not wide as fields to hold lives
lives are not narrow as skulls.

3

And it's easier now
what with automatic drip.

4

Steam rides from blackness
to nostrils all across America.

5

There are the qualities of emulation and choice.
Which thing will be artist, which insomniac?

6

It's 2 am. Lori's moving her mouth over steam
like some puppet or physics experiment.
She says the word *Alaska* but neither of us know
this sentence's beginning.

7

My stomach's a-jumble. Mind's blank but dusky.
Cafés should have couches.