

# I Close My Eyes

By David Ignatow

I close my eyes like a good little boy at night in bed,  
as I was told to do by my mother when she lived,  
and before bed I brush my teeth and slip on my pajamas,  
as I was told, and look forward to tomorrow.

I do all things required of me to make me a citizen of sterling worth.  
I keep a job and come home each evening for dinner. I arrive at the  
same time on the same train to give my family a sense of order.

I obey traffic signals. I am cordial to strangers, I answer my  
mail promptly. I keep a balanced checking account. Why can't I  
live forever?

David Ignatow, "I Close My Eyes" from *Against the Evidence: Selected Poems 1934-1994*.  
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Source: *Against the Evidence: Selected Poems 1934-1994* (Wesleyan University Press, 1993)