



1984

## Rebel

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## REBEL

Old man Rebel, eighty by cat time,  
bent double from arthritic pain,  
hobbles through kitchen's slow-yielding  
door, sagging stomach and drooping chin  
pulled carpetward by gravity's  
invisible hand, dragged down  
by the strength of time.

His rosebud nose no longer tells curry  
from tuna. Misty-gray eyes stare blankly,  
bathroom mirrors after a shower;  
ears twitch less often, thunderclaps  
a pin dropping. His gaping grin,  
nothing but a toothless yawn,  
reveals his leather-coated tongue.

Most days he sleeps, soaking sun,  
dreaming of his supple past  
in woodland parks hunting two-legged prey.  
Today birds easily evade his stilted  
chase, mocking his age-humbled gait.  
Sleep pacific yesterday thoughts, Rebel,  
live now for your journey to tomorrow.

Andrew Paxie