

First Red Traffic Light

teacher says I can't
I just can't be pleased forever
so I see her face on display
as that leftover cement bag
against the wall of a childhood school

today I walk out
out of the perfect excavation she built for me
clean myself off
and go looking for that first red traffic light
so I can walk against it
after all
letting the dead take care of burying the dead
is nothing new

when I do find it
the traffic light that is
there standing at the opposite corner is the teacher
taking notes on how I step off the curb
but just then an idea runs up behind my eyes
and nearly crashes right there

— *Ken Rivard*