



Illustration by Eleeza Palmer

Penumbra

My town lies in the shadow of the epicenter,
New York City, where death makes the rules –
metropolis where millions shelter in cramped apartments,
while the affluent reside in the sky;

where “essentials” must ride crowded dawn subways,
late night buses to and from the outer boroughs,
and social distancing is a dream.

Police, fire, first responders,
health care workers toiling
with sparse protection amongst the ill,

struggling to subdue the virus,
as corpses fill refrigerated trucks, and
await burials none may attend,

while I, sequestered in the safety of my home,
unable to share triumphs or defeats,
can only marvel and salute those who give
so much and work amongst the suffering.

—Richard Bronson, MD

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