There is a dark fear in me...

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There is a dark fear in me
That the brightest of our young ripe
Pleasure cannot cure.

On those black nights
When I toss tired, sick, road wearily,
I fear that fast approaching sleep,

When I might meet
A tireless guardian
Whose towering self-righteous hand

Might not pause this time
To keep me where I am,
Or pass to let me in.

FRAN MURPHY