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## All That I Leave Behind

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# All That I Leave Behind

## **Cover Page Footnote**

"Third Prize Winner" Appeared in the issue: Volume 7, Issue 2, 2006.

## MIKE REILLY

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### ALL THAT I LEAVE BEHIND

I have been told,  
And bantered on,  
And egged upon;  
That if I leave this place  
I will lose everything that I had,  
And be left with nothing but an uncertain future.

That all of my current contacts,  
My current relationships,  
My current friendships,  
Will be lost.

And my efforts to change  
Will lead to nothing.  
And that my new place of destination  
Has nothing for me.  
Because apparently  
Every place is the same,  
And every place has the same type of people.

But what I have to say  
Is that  
I really don't have anything  
Here.  
And if I left here,  
All that I left behind,  
Really won't make a difference  
Because no one will notice my absent presence.

SO,  
I say,  
What am I really leaving behind?  
Why do I feel like

A criminal if I flee  
This crime scene.

Why do I feel like  
I will let people down,  
And make them  
Upset.

When in fact,  
All that I leave behind  
Never had any substance to it,  
And my preexistence  
Will diminish to rubble and inexistence,  
Nothing will be left,  
And nobody will even notice that I left.

Why do I bother?  
Why do I care?  
When in fact  
I know my efforts are useless.

I know that if I stay  
Anything I may have had  
Will eventually dwindle as time goes by,  
Or everything will crumble,  
And perish in the end  
Just as it always has done.

So when I leave  
All that I left behind,  
I try to find what impact  
I will leave when I disappear.  
But I always come to the conclusion,  
That over time there was nothing that I left behind,  
And that eventually my absent presence will not even have made

One single dot on the radar.