

**Bill Wolak**

**Let's Not Sleep Tonight**

Let's not sleep tonight.  
Let's not comb the smile of  
darkness  
out of our hair before dawn.

For weeks I've been expecting  
you  
from every direction at once.  
For weeks I've caught glimpses  
of you,  
tasted your shadow everywhere.

Now that all of my roads collide  
in front of you,  
now that propellers are whirling  
everywhere in your body,  
and triggers are bursting from  
my flesh,

until the explosions that we  
carry  
at all times between our legs  
ignite the porcelain treetops  
growing out of our eyes,  
tonight, at least, let's not  
sleep.

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Bill Wolak is a much-traveled and widely published poet and translator (of Joyce Mansour, Stuart Merrill, Francis Vielé-Griffin, and, most recently, Hafez) and an adjunct professor at William Paterson University.