

1942

## Vision for Avenue N

John Ciar

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## SONNET

Should I retreat within the house of years  
 Spending my life to save a little time,  
 Nursing with wrinkled care the creeping fears  
 That shun the lamp and toward no window climb . . .

Would this be me, or, useful, a disguise—  
 A pretext cunning made to substitute  
 For ardor, the courageous and unwise,  
 Too eloquent to suffer and be mute?

A character—that creature with a shape—  
 Instrument of action, needs a frame;  
 House, ship-at-sea, landscape,  
 The scene described to vision dull or lame.

But Time's an island in the sea of space  
 And spirits kindred meet there face to face.

WINTHROP PALMER

## VISION FOR AVENUE N

Extravagant with stars over Avenue N,  
 Night looms foreign as the inspecting duchess.  
 If any consider planets from this address  
 They are no astronomers, but unmethodized, alien.

What rides the alley air between geraniums  
 Solidifies in shadow as ancient  
 As the back smells of Babylon. Be patient:  
 We shall outlive to clock by lead-uraniums.

And Avenue N shall be permitted in space  
 Made congruous with the astronomer's dignity.  
 Across the daily clatter of a face  
 Shall fall the shadow of a galaxy.

And the visiting duchess will not need the poor.  
 And Nell Fink's planet open from her door.

JOHN CIAR