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## Big

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# Big

by James E. Fowler

The setting sun  
casts a Giacometti  
shadow before me.

It stilts along  
on giraffe legs  
by the meter,

arms at side,  
a small bulb  
head on top.

Its list of  
things to do  
at some remove

must be simple,  
perhaps an affair  
of fruit trees

ripe for picking,  
a neighborly hand  
at mending thatch.

A folk figure,  
this, opposite to  
the petty dwarf



counting and grudging.  
An innate largeness  
of mild gesture

makes its arrival  
at any scene  
a pleasing turn.

Songbirds perch on  
its narrow shoulders—  
goodwives see hope

of clearing chimneys—  
even cats find  
cause to stretch.

Turning the corner,  
though, I lose  
this placid giant

and trudge onward,  
taking daily concerns  
in small stride.