

Stars

When I say “star” whom do you think of?
Some performer who outshines the rest, of course.

But gaze skyward one night
beyond those stars bright enough for unaided eyes.
Assign one to each person on the earth,
and realize that you still have trillions
to offer future generations.
Some of these are brighter
than those we’ve known for millenia,
but find themselves too far away.
Others, less pretentious, may be average
in the energy which they emit
yet could, sun-like, be incubating planets
with self-replicating, photosynthesizing,
or even sentient beings.

So next time, out for a drive,
or stroll, or simply sitting
in a park somewhere, notice
those who pass so casually,
and think once more of all the stars
that you and I will never see.