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The Empty Notebook and Code Alert

The empty notebook has nothing to say
about the murders in Rwanda, the massacres
in Hebron and Haifa. The empty notebook
insists its slate is clean. It is changing
its cover to orange then red and back to yellow.
Terrified by rumors, it listens to bulletins
on the hour, receives intermittent briefings
from unreliable sources. How can it tell
where danger lies—in the street, in the air,
on the shelf? The empty notebook interrogates
a random sample of all who cross its path.
It avoids racial profiling, is responsible to no one.
The empty notebook has an empty conscience.