

Jeffrey Schwarz

OLD MEN

100 year old men dream
of opening watches,
finding the gears large enough to handle.
They dream of holding
the attention of obscenely young women.
All the houses they've lived in
run together, door to door.
200 year old men dream
of catching pigeons,
finding some Hebrew letters under the feathers.
They dream of shaking
their brown nerves out of the bedsheets.
All the world they've been dealt
amounts to the smell of steamed milk.
1000 year old men dream
in Aboriginal patterns,
moving one chip of blood this thought to that.
They dream of houses, perhaps, faces,
but no one's far enough away to make them out.