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The Learning Box

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THE LEARNING BOX

James Ratner

Learning rules and silently accepting confines:
These bring you the greatest blessings and grandest awards.
We see you straining toward the top
To have pockets packed
With delinquent rewards of mediocrity.
Success shamelessly issues from
Willingness to submit,
And staying inside
This institutional structure of basic survival
Enforces pervasive apathy in
You
Me

(We could get out)

It's a perverse system.
It's slanderous to the spirit of those promised knowledge.

But every day, we effortlessly ally to what we
Desperately detest.
Our silence animates the stately defense of the status quo.
We placate leaders, we shatter dreams and
Casually scatter the pieces;
We concede the loss with a belabored sadness.
Though sensing a better way, we actively
Suppress thoughts looking up and out.
And while not stupid enough to take this box,
We're smart enough to laugh
But only at turned backs. 