

Days With the Family Realist

A doorknob on a chicken  
my grandmother said once, meaning  
  
useless, stupid. Most of us,  
most of the time, are that  
  
exactly. Not that  
we don't have our ambitions,  
  
even our nickel-and-dime  
nobilities. Still, some nights  
  
when I can't sleep, I look  
in the mirror, I study this man  
  
who's planning his own small  
parthenons and relativity theories,  
  
bank heists, moon shots, deathless poems.  
Go milk a fish she also said.

- Albert Goldbarth