

## THIS SHOULD MEAN SOMETHING - IX

Soft black circles  
*this should mean something*  
ominous, empty -  
not these round black spots  
not these warm bundles of hope  
how could that be.

I would like  
to hold them in  
*close embrace*  
feel their soft warmth  
the comfort  
of which you speak.

The nights are so black  
*it's only the season*  
Oh there's light in the dark  
think a million tiny lights  
spraying the night skies  
strung up on Main Street.

Go ahead, laugh  
at the slippage  
and the loss  
Rip Van Winkle rising  
from his grave  
bemused.

- Diane Sophrin  
Vermont. 11.26.19.