

What good is reading poetry?

Ilhan Sami Çomak

It's good for making hands fine enough to touch silk
And for feeling the moment that stone turns impatient

It's good for looking in the eyes of hungry cats
And extending curiosity out among all animals

It is the darkness that makes my night voice heard
And makes it easier to say 'the moon will come up late'

For years my feet have been cold, so cold
When I say this, it helps me compare winter to snow

Spring will begin today, I know
Reading poetry helps me believe that feeling

It reminds me I don't miss the Istanbul bustle
Lets me know things to tell my love in a letter

When I'm tired, to stop and rest, not to drink water when I sweat,
It helps me to cry and fret over wildfires, over death

To know anger's reserved just for evil
To stop and ask forgiveness of women

To feel youth when young, to understand it later on,
It's good for helping me to sit and write new poems

Good for helping me seduce and flatter
Then to kiss my love when the leaves turn yellow

Translation: Caroline Stockford