

## THE CHILD OF MANY WINTERS

Poem by John Haag (1926-2008) from *The Mirrored Man* (1961)

*The child of many winters came  
And stared into the fountain where  
The lost bells ring. Another time  
She might have seen the evening star  
Drinking its own reflection, or  
The water curling into foam.*

*The fountain flashed on cobblestones:  
Bell music in the water slid  
Down to the basin; tambourines  
of silver sounded where it spread  
Through changing surfaces, and made  
The depth uncertain. Darker tones*

*In liquid, flickering among  
The lights and pebbles, startled her,  
Who dabbled fingers to prolong  
The ripples, while she waited for  
The clearest image to appear –  
And listened for the bells to ring.*