tavernacle

night priests

if you hang around long enough

you will see one

moving in bourbon theatrics

opining mythological profundities

while the game slowburns through

another inning on the screen above the bar

all you know is
that he knows
that he is right
and that's enough for you to
come down squarely on the side of doubt

all you can do for the sake
of self preservation
is try to ignore the sermon
motion the barkeep over
and check on the progress
of the team you put money on
but there are times you find yourself
inexplicably listening to his
disjointed diatribe

thinking that he might have a reasonable argument for this or that convinced the music of the angels can be heard over the din

those are the times you know you've stayed too long

times you've easily tithed
your ten percent
so you let reason turn
you towards the door
counting on your failing memory
to take care of any influence
his words may have had

Frederick E. Whitehead is a life long native of Western New York. He has authored 9 volumes of poetry. He acted as host of a monthly Poetry Series at Dog Ears Bookstore & Cafe from 2010 to 2018. He also sporadically publishes chapbooks through his Destitute Press.

The Pangolin Review; Issue 7, 8 November 2018