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The Hard Part Is Getting Around To It

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THE HARD PART IS GETTING AROUND TO IT

I didn't put up the storm windows
this winter. I took a year to get to
fixing the toilet. My showerhead trickles
four streamlets. It is all I can do
to water the houseplants, replace burned-out
lightbulbs and trim my toenails.

Half our vegetables were left
in the garden. The yard grew and grew
slick with rotten apples. Squirrels ate all
the walnuts. The leaves drifted eventually
into neat piles. One trashcan rolled into
the drive a month ago. I steer around it.

This house bulges with uncompleted
projects: Furniture in stages
of refinishing, woodwork half-
stripped, a bird feeder I've been going to
build, blocks for the baby that need
the final varnish—I needn't go on.

Peanut butter sandwiches are very little
trouble. The dishes pile up slowly. I bathe
rarely and shave one a week, change my socks
when my wife complains. There are plenty
of things half-read and half-written.
It is doubtful I shall ever finish this poem.