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Guidance

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Guidance

John J. Gordon

Some parental dictates
linger through life
offer a behavioral blueprint
like benevolent instructions
imprinted on my youth

treat others with respect
consider different opinions
be tolerant

Compassionate parents
past and present
have tendered
similar tenets
to their children

History
bears witness
to a ceaseless stream
of tyrants
fanatics who

claim they possess truth
condemn dissenters
smear opponents
promote fear

I wonder
what advice
their parents
gave them

Hangin' on the Street Corner,
Photography by Bryan VanZanten