

Freedom

by William Stafford

Freedom is not following a river.
Freedom is following a river
though, if you want to.

It is deciding now by what happens now.
It is knowing that luck makes a difference. 5

No leader is free; no follower is free--
the rest of us can often be free.
Most of the world are living by
creeds too odd, chancy, and habit-forming
to be worth arguing about by reason. 10

If you are oppressed, wake up about
four in the morning; most places
you can usually be free some of the time
if you wake up before other people.

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