

# Old Penny

*by Gary Hardaway*

It has lain for a month, untouched,  
and darkening further with exposure  
and time, on an inconspicuous spot  
in the parking lot. Nothing about it

is attractive- its color, it's design,  
it's market value. I leave it be and watch  
to see if anyone sees it as a path  
to better luck- that fabled lucky penny.

I defer to the better fortune of others  
in my generosity. And wonder if  
my own mediocre luck would worsen  
were I to pick it up and pocket it.

