

Kierkegaard's canary

by [Jennifer Hartenburg](#) in the [April 13, 2016](#) issue

*“and freedom looks down into its own possibility, laying hold of finiteness to support itself”*

—Vigilius Haufniensis, “The Watchman” of Copenhagen, *The Concept of Anxiety*

Kierkegaard's canary was happy  
as a lark until Kierkegaard set

it free. Now the whole bright world  
spins out beneath its flight, its heart  
in palpitations. Yes; the whole

bright glorious world spins,  
the whole bright, blinding world.