

After the iridotomy

by [Angie Crea O'Neal](#) in the [June 17, 2020](#) issue

I tell him my favorite poet went blind at 43,  
some think from the same condition as mine.  
What good fortune that I can prevent such a  
loss, unlike poor Milton whose eyes flickered  
for years before they burned out like a candle  
in middle age. How I've felt my age mostly  
in my eyes, as if they are the center of my gravity,  
carrying the weight of getting old like a pair of  
sore shoulders. So much looking has made me  
see less, I say, like reading a digital clock in the sun.

He tells me the iris is just a muscle controlling  
the light. I tell him it's color, named for the Greek  
goddess who brought the world messages from  
the divine. I tell him that Milton wrote his greatest  
poem in the dark.