

New Poetry from Eric Chandler: “The Things You Leave Out”



LEFT OUT LEAVES / *image by Amalie Flynn*

The Things You Leave Out

after Yamamoto Jōchō, Jim Morrison, and Robert Frost

You quote

*One cannot perform feats of greatness
in a normal frame of mind.*

You leave out

*One must turn fanatic and
develop a mania for dying.*

You quote

*I drink
so I can talk to assholes.*

You leave out

This includes me.

You quote

*I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

You leave out

*Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,*

*And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.*

You leave those things out
so we won't know you're

morbid

livid

timid