

ALAN PERRY

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Exoplanet

*Astronomers discover a new star: Trappist-1 and its seven planets, b through h*

I'm relieved to know there's hope for me  
that a Goldilocks character might adorn  
another world. Some water is likely there  
not frozen but free to slide down mountains  
and glimmer off the starset, life as we  
would want it—warm enough to be nurtured  
strong enough to survive meteor rain and  
asteroids, waiting for the right eon  
to invite me in to live there and love  
a body called d, e, or f—it's hard to tell here  
40 light years away from Aquarius.  
But I'm patient.  
I'll flip through the planets  
focus the telescope and hold my breath  
for the fly-by of your light  
to reach me.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Alan Perry is a retired human resources executive who divides his time between Tucson, Arizona, and a suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota. His poems have also appeared in *Riddled with Arrows*, *Sleet Magazine*, *Gyroscope Review*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, and *Gnarled Oak*.

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