

# **FREEDOM**

By: William Stafford

Freedom is not following a river.  
Freedom is following a river,  
though, if you want to.  
It is deciding now by what happens now.  
It is knowing that luck makes a difference.

No leader is free; no follower is free—  
the rest of us can often be free.  
Most of the world are living by  
creeds too odd, chancy, and habit-forming  
to be worth arguing about by reason.

If you are oppressed, wake up about  
four in the morning: most places,  
you can usually be free some of the time  
if you wake up before other people.