The One-Eyed Boy at the Wall

the wall goes on and on
no chinks no windows no doors
stone neither split nor crumbled
no way in no way out

yet a wall has its reasons
usually inside

he takes another look around
nothing

nothing at least
he knows how to see

he has met people
here and there in the world
with mirrors for eyes
barricade smiles
one-way mouths

neither barricades nor mirrors here
just stone

perhaps a stone that if pushed would open
a secret panel in the wall . . .

too many stones

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a wall has its builders
and they have their reasons
which should be
if there is an inside
inside

unless of course
hidden outside

or the wall
its own reason

each side both inside and out
the whole reaching
from an arbitrary here to an arbitrary there

containing nothing
keeping nothing out

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could keep him at its side
a good long time
a wall like that

Thomas Fitzsimmons