

V

THEY PUT THE CROSS ON HIM TO CARRY BEHIND JESUS

ἐπέθηκαν αὐτῷ τὸν σταυρὸν φέρειν ὅπισθεν τοῦ Ἰησοῦ
(Luke 23.26)

it is like this: they wear you down
until you cannot carry it
so you fall you float
away fast like a twig on the bearded face
of a beak in spate
and before you are back, another bears it
for no strength is great enough
not even yours

but it is not strength we crave
when the wood is green and yet they still plant
wickedness, reap
evil, and gorge themselves on the fruit
of deception

it is not strength we crave
but company

and we bless the ones who weep for us
we bless them in their
emptiness

we bless as we watch the thorns and thistles
grow up and cover the altars

we bless to keep from saying to the steeples,
Fall on us
and to the bells,
Cover us

we bless even as we say again,
Not one stone upon another

φέρειν: to bear, carry, endure