

## THEY PUT THE CROSS ON HIM TO CARRY BEHIND JESUS

ἐπέθηκαν αὐτῷ τὸν σταυρὸν φέρειν ὀπισθεν 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 beck 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