

1963

## Absolutes

Gustave Kayser

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GUSTAVE KEYSER

ABSOLUTES

*(From an ink painting by Seiho)*

black on white  
 crow in snow  
     hunched  
     wet lump  
 on brittle branch  
 remembering warmth  
 remembering corn  
 miserable  
 as life  
 is  
 black on white

E. W. TEDLOCK, JR.

RHYME ON A WINTRY MORNING

They've put four crosses there into the tower,  
 A way to pierce the heavy stone and make  
 The wall reveal a blessed hour.  
 Four pigeons crouch against the cold, then shake  
 The monolithic dark and make  
 The winter day to which I wake.

The dimness brightens into day,  
 The pigeons skirl and fly away.

Old women make warm beds for children if  
 They've kept their wits. They stroke them fast asleep,  
 Then lie awake to hold the covers stiff  
 Against the leak of cold. They do not weep  
 Against the shaking of the bed—they keep  
 The strict decorum of the time of sleep.