

1944

Altitude

Ray B. West Jr.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq>

Recommended Citation

West Jr., Ray B.. "Altitude." *New Mexico Quarterly* 14, 1 (1944). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol14/iss1/26>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the University of New Mexico Press at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Mexico Quarterly by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.

ALTITUDE

Here where the cougar crouches
Is no bed for love.

Here

Where the deer surrenders
To the goat, and vultures
Wheel and glide in vacant sky;
Here where the wild heart beats
In fear, where twisted limbs,
Impervious to season, struggle
To sink their tentacles in stone.
My breath is cold though the sun
Is twice delivered.

Hate

Stings like a whip unwound.

RAY B. WEST, JR

CAMPUS SCENE: NORTH CAROLINA

Here unfilled faces pour from bells,
Forgetting a face that filed its dreams away.
Where will they come? To him, to me?
Or waiting castles by a timeless sea?

Perhaps they'll gather what the wind foretells
Produce a dagger for the aging heart
Or wander with these measuring rods
Across a fresh and foreign chart.

Here is a sea-change world,
Running liquidly beneath southern sun
Swifter than the swimming eye
Under magnolias that whisper with a northern tone.

ALICE MOSEI