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Death of a Soldier

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IV

Now Elisha rends his clothes in twain,
Watch ye prophets of Jericho,
With Elijah's mantle he comes again,
To Jordan, ye watchers of Jericho.

And he has smitten the raging flood,
Look, look ye watchers at Jericho,
Over Jordan he comes dry-shod,
Watch ye prophets of Jericho.

He comes again into the town,
Into the town of Jericho,
And the prophets there they all bow down
Bow down bow down in Jericho!

BYRON HERBERT REECE

DEATH OF A SOLDIER

Shall his name be lost forever?
he also died to save the earth—
in men's disgrace and violence.
he sorrowed; how report his hurt?

Wise was he? or world-betrayed?
Did he expire in holiness?
His grace and his belligerence,
were they a casual sacrifice?

How lengthy shall his history be?
this our father, brother, son
whose story is a simple one—
'He died of wounds, across the sea.'

CAROL ELY HARPER