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Hilltop Village

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DORA M. PETTINELLA

HILLTOP VILLAGE

High on a hilltop
the little village sits
with its tall cathedral
its pine and fir trees.

Cool are the summers;
the reaper's blade
falls thick and fast
in noonday heat.

A sea of grass
flows down the slopes—
narrow alleys running
through cobblestone streets.

Farmhouse windows burn
with meager light
dying before the darkness
heavily sets in.

Wind rakes tilting dust
windows quick-shut in flight
precarious autumn storms
are often wild as love.

HENRY TAYLOR

LONG DISTANCE

You ask me if I think you do not care
And I shall say some words to the receiver
And fear not they will not be the words you hear:
I cannot lay my hand upon your shoulder.