

1972

# Night Prayer

Ross Talarico

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## NIGHT PRAYER

I've been all over, here and there  
And sleeping around.  
On this mattress I lay me down.  
I pray the pillow  
To remember the cloud.  
And if I awaken with her hair  
Lying softly across my chest,  
Let it be  
The web I have spun to catch  
The man left falling through my sleep.

*Ross Talarico*

## I THINK OF MY DAUGHTER'S BIRTH

It began you opened the glass door and stepped into the shower  
you forgot to take off your clothes and the water rose  
as easily as a squirrel goes down a tree where were you

It began you stepped into the shower everyone on the other side  
was watching and you expected that and grabbed for the soap  
quiet as moonrise when you stopped walking in a field  
as artificially waiting as the ticking of a car cooling  
saw the moonrise hang like a hummingbird outside the dark

It began you stepped into the shower and down to the book  
opening at the place of instructions stinging breathe  
they said breathe open your mouth open your eyes breathe

18 *Benjamin Saltman*