

1974

# Conversion

Robert L. McRoberts

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## CONVERSION

You can't deny anything:  
you say that this high up  
a climber has to carry  
even his shadow.  
You pass one snow line  
after another. The rock slides.  
You resist that, but the rock  
kisses the foot and moves on.  
On the side of the mountain,  
near the highway, the county  
has laid a veil of century  
fence, but even the veil  
cannot stop the rock.  
Try to deny the snow  
its place to land.  
The wind will find the holes  
in everything. The fire  
will build a nest in the air.  
When you put your hand  
over it, warm air will rise  
and pass under it like a wing.  
You can't deny that,  
but you can't deny the ground,  
the footprint you keep  
leaving and the one  
you keep coming to.