1971

The Bull Returns

Yehuda Amichai

Shirley Kaufman

Nurit Orchan

Follow this and additional works at: http://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation

THE BULL RETURNS

The bull returns from his day’s work in the arena, after he drank coffee with his fighters and left them a note with his exact address and the location of the red cape. The sword stayed in his obstinate neck. And the times he’s at home. Now he sits on his bed with his heavy Jewish eyes. He knows that the sword hurts too as it enters the flesh. In the next life he’ll be the sword: the hurt will stay.

(“The door is open. If not, the key is under the mat.”)
He knows about twilight kindness and true kindness. In the Bible he’s listed among the pure animals. He’s very kosher, chewing the cud, and even his heart is divided and cleft like a hoof. Hair breaks out of his chest, dry and dull as out of a torn mattress.

Yehuda Amichai
translated from the Hebrew by Shirley Kaufman and Nurit Orchan