

# POETRY

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The following poems incorporate various mythic and historical elements of the *Camino de Santiago* (The Way of St. James) into classical poetic structures. The author wished to contextualize and express his own experience within these elements and to add new meaning to the way.

## MIDWAY

The vineyards blush vermilion in the dawning stain,  
Their fruit like lilac pearl loosely strung  
Between the hills of wheat as thick as mane.

A pair of starlings spar above. The young  
And spritely hatchling nips her winged, ailing  
Elder, loosing antic song that moves the sun.

But oh how quickly Autumn's wind will sail  
Her youth away, when beaks will tear and bleed  
For spoiled vine. Marauded fields unveil

A kingdom less divine. Now bare, a seed  
Takes root in silent, clouded acre. Inlaid  
In aching Spanish bone, a fetid weed

Breaks ground and curls in deep and savage ways.  
Its thorns like arrows leave a crimson mark  
And crown the hilltops as the daylight wanes.

The berries shine but bring a bitter harvest  
And farmers hands reach out in offering.  
They fawn and sing within a forest dark.

Oh God, oh Muse, please guide them towards the Spring,  
That they might behold the stars again.

## CURBSIDE GRACE

What levy must I pay for resurrection?  
A blistered heel, a bleeding heart, an heir  
In offering? Must life be bent in prayer  
To make an image flush with God's perfection?

Enchanted eyes are ripe for misdirection  
And peddlers bank the byways, granting fare  
To heaven. Silver passes hands like air  
Through valley timber, blowing toward perdition.

Yet through this curbside grace a Truth is spoken,  
One that sees the Pentecostal burning  
Caught in rooster comb, that hears salvation

In his crow, that through his coat embraces  
Love's invasion of the heart returning.  
Yes, even if it crumbles, bread is broken.