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The Pilgrimage

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The Pilgrimage

Cover Page Footnote

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THE PILGRIMAGE

*"Pity me on my pilgrimage to Loch Derg
Oh King of the Churches and the bells
bemoaning your sores and your wounds."*

ANONYMOUS 9TH CENTURY

On a warm September night leaning
lonely out the window of my study
the dry leaves brush the ground while
windy thoughts blow me.
My mind is a string of mirrors.
And then something —

a taste of air, a sound
like a tiny bullet of light sets a reflection in the darkness and
back and forth against the glass it races spinning in
building light until a pain catches in my throat
and fills me with remembrance.
I know I have lived this night before.

I've heard that people watching the ballet
have by the very motion of the dance
been struck so to the soul that actually
they feel their spirit's free in motion on
the stage of coloured light and whirling sound
while they sit safe in their respectable seat.

But now the hour is fully come.
And in a circle slowly
softly white against the darkness
turning as the ancient ode winds
tearful through the fallen trees
down the mourning steps the stars'
bright glory sinks a silver death
shrouding.

I step toward my unknown love
I reach out my hand . . .
On a warm September night leaning
lonely out the window of my study
I know I too am dying.

So this is the kingdom of heaven, father.
Lead kindly, light.

jack vorrasi

