

# Was blind, but now I see

by [Bonnie Thurston](#) in the [September 4, 2007](#) issue

*You have your sight, and yet you cannot see.*

—Tiresias, *Oedipus Rex*

Driving into the city to teach  
in gray-green late summer,  
I see one flaming red maple  
and think of Oedipus  
standing dangerously above the hoi polloi.

But it is Moses' tree,  
a call story on a highway hillside.  
I want to stop traffic,  
shout, "Take off your shoes, people!"

For the world is on fire  
with a beauty so fragile that,  
like the thread of ash  
after the stick of incense burns,  
one breath can topple it.