

## Imposition

by [J. Barrie Shepherd](#) in the [March 19, 2014](#) issue

This soot-dark smear  
across the brow, between the eyes,  
will lead you, if the way be clear,  
through all the endless winter of our year,  
toward an elemental table, the tears  
and savage hubbub of that agonizing garden,  
the treacherous courtyard, hilltop, nails and spear,  
the cry, the dark descending fear,  
and then another garden with a cave  
and such an austere emptiness  
will fill the rest of history  
with clear resounding alleluias.