

“Now”

by [Kate Tucker](#) in the [March 29, 2017](#) issue

The Dalai Lama  
shaves I imagine  
as other men do  
each morning.  
Standing before  
his mirror, he  
sees the line of  
lamas going back  
to before mirrors.  
When he shaves  
he’s present only  
to the blade as  
it pulls or skates  
across his skin—  
cheek, upper lip,  
chin—and to each  
hair as it accepts  
the fact. Shaving,  
he only shaves,  
unlike me reclining  
in this tub, absent  
to the razor in  
my hand and to  
the shin, lost in  
thoughts of how  
wise men live.