

The newest agon for grief

by [Peter Cooley](#) in the [October 20, 2021](#) issue

—*in memoriam, Jacqueline Cooley, 1944–2018*

Pray for me, I asked the trees.  
Or did I order them? Or just stand still  
while the wind bore its song among the branches  
carrying us both forward, backward, forward,  
marrying us to morning light.

In the grief-room-tangle of my hands  
folded together to confront the day,  
I've found all things necessary to construct a life,  
a few blues notes or a new agon to slip on.

I've come to myself as a new man—again,  
broken in all the new places, over and over,  
pieced together by the gods,  
then broken, pieced, one of the pieces in this fist  
I've opened and re-opened writing this.