

GREGORY ORR was born in 1947. He received an M.F.A. from Columbia University in 1972. His first collection of poems, *Burning the Empty Nests*, was published by Harper & Row last spring.

#### POEM

I will lose you. It is written  
into this poem, the way  
the fisherman's wife knits  
his death into the sweater.

#### EVOLUTION

After its capture, the animal  
was placed in a cage of mirrors.  
It sat for hours staring at its own image,  
until its fur began to shed.  
Soon it learned to live with its left eye closed  
so that in spite of the bulb shining overhead,  
half of its world was always dark and unknown.  
Gradually its left side shriveled up  
but its right hand, with which it seized things,  
continued to grow.

#### POEM

Before he passes, the stones shine  
in their sheaths of light.  
After, they become heavy and gray.

He walks through the fields in his suit  
of mirrors. Beneath it,  
on a chain around his neck  
he wears a small, fur-covered cross.

That is all that he is.  
He has left his furniture  
in the house of wind.