

NIGHT PRAYER

I've been all over, here and there
And sleeping around.
On this mattress I lay me down.
I pray the pillow
To remember the cloud.
And if I awaken with her hair
Lying softly across my chest,
Let it be
The web I have spun to catch
The man left falling through my sleep.

Ross Talarico

I THINK OF MY DAUGHTER'S BIRTH

It began you opened the glass door and stepped into the shower
you forgot to take off your clothes and the water rose
as easily as a squirrel goes down a tree where were you

It began you stepped into the shower everyone on the other side
was watching and you expected that and grabbed for the soap
quiet as moonrise when you stopped walking in a field
as artificially waiting as the ticking of a car cooling
saw the moonrise hang like a hummingbird outside the dark

It began you stepped into the shower and down to the book
opening at the place of instructions stinging breathe
they said breathe open your mouth open your eyes breathe

18 *Benjamin Saltman*