

## Seven Poems · *James Laughlin*

### THE DEPARTURE

They say I have to go away soon  
On the long trip to nowhere.  
Put things in order, they say.  
But I've always been disorderly  
So why start now?  
Not much time, they say.  
What to do with it?  
Not much different, I think,  
Than what I've been doing.  
My best friends have always been  
The ones in books.  
Read a few pages here, a few there.  
No complaints, few regrets,  
Thanks to everybody.

### THE OLD INDIAN

told me (he was an Onan-  
daga) that each person is  
  
born with a number of days  
in his hand he must accept  
  
that but he may hope for  
the tribe because if there  
  
is one to speak and one to  
listen the tribe will go on.

*for Gary Snyder*