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Nauvoo

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Nauvoo

Twilight on the water, and in the west the hallows
 Of a newer England, where wisteria blooms
 As suddenly as spring. Swallows rouse the sun
 To the flickering of shadows, and an ending.
 Joseph lay across the shadow of Ephraim and the fallow
 Light of the river. Sorrow ranged in the whispering
 Of townsmen who walked nearby to encumber the silence
 Of death, to raise it in a memory of light far west
 As the memory of sun. The temple stone was sun
 In the glory of remembrance, when Michael came
 In the fantasy of truth to remember Eden.
 Eden was here, before the bright martyrdom,
 When Joseph fell from a window in his suffering
 And dying. Nauvoo is kept in silence
 Now; the dismal streets fold into shadows,
 Where memory disappears. But what remains
 Is the western trail, where he will be taken
 In the descendancy of his older brother
 To rise into the shadows of the sun, into the veils
 Of tomorrow. Remember tomorrow, he might say,
 As the stone reflects the permanence of belief.
 The sun is later there, settling far west,
 Remembering them, in the descendancy of time,
 In Nauvoo again, streets of legend once again,
 And temples that reach further back in memory,
 Into old belief made new again, in Zurich
 And the East, in Germany and Palestine,
 In Zion once again: Nauvoo.

— Clinton F. Larson