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*The whispered fragrance
of wild flowers
in a musty room.*

*Your Word
in the silence
of my soul.*

Susan Fichtelbert

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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE CONFERENCE ON CHRISTIANITY AND LITERATURE

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Membership and subscription: One year \$8.00.

Two years \$15.00.

Individual outside the U.S.: \$10.00. Two years \$18.00. Institutions: \$12.00. Institutions outside U.S.: \$14.00.

Address manuscripts (except poetry) to John H. Timmerman, Editor, *Christianity and Literature*, Department of English, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506. Manuscripts should follow the *MLA Style Sheet* with endnotes and should be accompanied by return postage. Poetry should be sent to Eugene Warren, Poetry Editor, *Christianity and Literature*, Department of Humanities, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, Missouri 65401 and should be accompanied by return postage. Send correspondence concerning subscriptions, changes of address, and special requests to Clarence Walhout, *Christianity and Literature*, Department of English, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506.

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ISSN 0148-3331

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Vol. XXXII, no. 1
Fall 1982

TO AN ANCHORITE

*A flash of light, of energy,
And suddenly you beheld the face of the Lord,
Prayerfully, in your cell.*

*The cilia swished
And a rhythm began in the waters of your soul,
Whispering, "Yahweh, Yahweh."*

*You floated in the currents of the deep
Until you found an anchorhold,
A place to gaze in profound silence upon your Maker.*

*The prayer in you grew
"Praise God, praise God"
And throbbed in a one-chambered heart.*

*You stretched forth arms,
Then hands in prayer
"I am marvelously made."*

*The cells of your being pulsed with praise,
Day and night, ceaselessly,
Breathless with adoration.*

*With closed eyes you beheld glory,
You dwelt in the house of the Lord,
In the hand of the Lord, joyfully.*

*O my child, come not into this world,
This unquiet world.
Do not open your eyes to lose that sight.*

*Do not come to this world of appetite and hunger,
Of striving and gaining
That which does not satisfy.*

*Your birth will be death,
And it will take many years
To learn to pray again.*

*After that birth,
You will be glad of another death.*

Anne Eggebroten

With regards for T.S. Eliot's "The Journey of the Magi":

*"I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different."*