

Reliquary

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Reliquary

David Schwartz

I have seen such beautiful things
Fashioned from supple plastic
Agony. And yet here am I, Lord,
With this mouth full of ash, and no
Offering to lay on the fire—no
Wine spilled in the shape
Of prayer nor any turtledove
Whose final body heat,
A local solar flare, could keep
Back the night long enough to say
I'm sorry for the waste or I think
I meant well.