

THE HOSTAGE DEAL

Between the rolling of the stone
and the crying of the name
came the agonising.

Shuddering, Jesus stares into the tomb
Making a deal with death in the depths.
A greedy exchange is strangely agreed:
Lazarus comes out and he will go in,
The prize of life for the price of death.

The hour of starkness fully come,
The Dealer is struck and laid in the tomb,
Then is the end, but the end is of death:
Through terrifying life in the depths,
Death is destroyed, exploded inside.

Before the rolling of the stone
and the coming of the women
came the rising.

G. Kings, *The Christian Century* 7 April 1993.

