

9. The Tenth Leper

Today, my God, I came back to thank you.
The other nine times I forgot.

It was not ingratitude, you understand,
but a careless enthusiasm.

I prayed for healing and when it came

I got swept away on a wave of new energy
and was so busy making up for lost time
that somehow you got left behind.

Today, my God, I remembered to come back
to the inner stillness where you waited
to share in my rejoicing. I didn't run
but returned quietly, holding out my heart
like a bowl, containing all the thanks I knew.

You accepted it with pleasure,
saying nothing about the other nine times
and the nine times before that.

Then, when you gave my heart back to me,
not empty but overflowing with your love,
I experienced yet another healing.