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The Man In The Cellar

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THE MAN IN THE CELLAR

With the honor of salt
and the complacency of lakes
my gray father in a jar
weathers the wind of the mausoleum.

The man in the cellar
seems to have been there for years,
a pale friend of coal dust, roots,
and the black mush of old potatoes.

Sometimes I rise to the rooms
that will not always be empty.
In the mouth of an imagined lover
a tooth winks, one eye laughing.