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## Gospel of the Mountain

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## GOSPEL OF THE MOUNTAIN

On a red mountain north of Beijing (where  
the Chinese hermits banished morning frost  
by chopping wood) the wisdom of the air  
washes the silent herons. Time is lost  
like a smoke wisp hanging over bamboo.  
Time of no-mind. The mountain cherries bloom  
by the white hut, and life is never through  
although the heart can never leave its room.  
One life, caught on the planet, never with  
the burning spice of immortality.  
On a red mountain, mist and sunlight hold  
some peaceful lemon trees in their own myth  
of wisdom. God's disease of history  
is out of place, and lemon air is cold.