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From Letters to Thoreau

Ben Corvo

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From *Letters to Thoreau*

May 29, 2020

Jerusalem

Others will have names for the places-within-places,
A cove, a stand of silver birches among the pines,
Even spots that the eye misses but the naked

Skin feels, a swimmer's, evening, as he winds
Out into deep water and back again, the sky
Holding summer's last light, huge tilt of Orion,

Once only the late commuter train, yellow lights,
The windows, flashing and playing across the surface,
The swimmer's wake flashing back gold, it is night,

Pitch black, dead quiet, when he makes his way back to shore,
There is his towel hanging from a branch, his dry things,
He peels off his trunks, stands naked in the cool air,

He has a name for this place too, this evening
He will come back to, someday, he doesn't know when.

Ben Corvo

BEN CORVO lives, studies, and writes in Jerusalem but has been making pilgrimages to Walden Pond for 35 years. His work has appeared in *Rockvale Review*, *Magma*, and *Salmagundi*. His "Letter to Thoreau" is part of an ongoing series of epistolary poems written during the coronavirus pandemic.

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