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¹⁹⁵⁴ A Loaf of Time

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, NMQ POETRY SELECTIONS

FOG AND SLEEP

The foghorn sounding from the cape took up The sea's long uncoordinated roar And changed it to a pure sea snore. The sound crept up the coast; the night Yawned huge about the house; And, sleep-encircled then, I slept.

Morning. The fog with banners and pennons, Like an army, passed through the pines. Holes in the air looked blue; The sun shot through in burning lines. But a foghorn blown by a sea-wise child Clouded the clearing air; and soon I rocked almost, I rocked Almost as though I stood upon my feet, asleep, at noon.

ERNEST KROLL

A LOAF OF TIME*

A loaf of time round and thick So many layers ledges to climb to lie on our bellies lolling licking our lips The long gaze a gull falling down the cliff's

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NMQ POETRY SELECTIONS

table To coast the constant waves The reaching wave-tongues lick the table But slowly grayly Slow as the ocean is gray beyond the green Slow as the sky is high and out of sight Higher than blue is white Around the table's wheel unbounded For each a meal The centered mound to be divided A wedge for each And leisure on each ledge The round loaf thick We lick our lips Our eyes gull down the layered cliff and ride the reaching waves That lick but slowly the table's edge Then slowly our loaf Slowly our ledge

MAY SWENSON

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