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## Filling Out the Forms

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## Filling Out the Forms

The grey flowing flood of concrete  
Fills the forms, as pulleyed cables  
Draw the motored screed.  
Six inches deep, the new concrete,  
In sixteen-foot slabs by two hundred,  
Glistens with water film and, later, sealer.

But first the old cracked blacktop  
Must be broken up and bucketed away,  
The hard-packed dirt and clay scraped down,  
And a brown frosting of fresh moist sand—  
Gauged carefully to depth—  
Leveled by concrete hoe and shovel  
In the bottom of each alternating bed.

Beauty is each calling of the Lord:  
The practiced swinging of the truck spout,  
Ten feet or more, to chute the wet "cement"  
Precisely, gapless, before the relentless screed,  
Not too turgid, not too shallow;  
And the dexterous skimming of the long-handled float,  
With fluent, sweeping, hidden-muscled motion,  
Across a new span of the church parking lot.