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A Question of Soul (In Two Parts)

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Godless son of a bitch," I raged
At the screeching, at the driver-fleeing-
That crushed this noble friend,
Who, thinking my oath for him,
and unable to turn his broken black head,
nonetheless, through the befuddling pain,
Sought my eyes and thumped his tail
In the spreading bloodpool,
Making me shudder to shatter his skull
With the boulder.
I embraced my retriever's last warm tremble,
Losing to asphalt
A godful cup
Of secret life.

David McGrath

