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The Passion of St. Anthony

Jeremy Schwager

A certain darkness envelops me,
In which dark ones dwell,
And I like a resident alien,
Receive their disapproving stares.

Coming near, I see their desire.
Fear closes in on me.
A winding sheet wrapping tight,
Preventing resistance or escape.

Then they close in, circling,
A great legion of calculating malice.
“A piece of flesh here,
Some dignity there, but keep him alive.”

And so piece-by-piece I disappear,
From the inside, they pull out what once was me,
Until only a shell remains
And a certain lightness pervades.



National Cathedral
Washington DC

John Mark Feilmeyer