

1987

Psych 100

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Psych 100

His throat is burning. We've denied this rat
his food and drink for days. His box is dark,
save when we come to him and hook the light
and lever to the drinking water. We
have shaped him so that he will drink, will beat
the clock and draw our graph for us. I pour
the water in the dish. If I could put
it in his mouth I would. I want to tell
the rat I understand, that Christ who died
for men was thirsty on that desert night,
and wanted human milk to drink, and wept
because of this. The night was cold and windy.
The mother bared her breast and shivered. The baby
nuzzled close. There was nothing to deny.

David Zivan