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## UPON CHARLEY'S MARRIAGE TO A GIRL FROM IDAHO

T. J. Beitelman

*for CH & TT*

My friend Charley cleans up real  
nice and is handsome in his red  
silk shirt. We are on the beach.  
It is March and that means wind  
and a smudged, slate sky. The bride  
wears green. She shimmers. Her babies  
toe the sand. They don't wear shoes.  
It is almost cold. The Officiant  
gathers us in a circle. A circle means  
things. Charley reads Neruda in his  
red shirt. She reads Rilke. *Letters  
to a Young Poet*. She is green and Charley  
is red. At the end, they vow to each  
other: Christ said, "I commit my  
spirit unto you." They say this.  
They join hands. Charley has rolled  
the Neruda up like a racing program.  
She takes his hand, rolled poem and all.  
The circle parts for them.