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# The Past Is Not Sweet To Us

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## THE PAST IS NOT SWEET TO US

As poverty and wire are birch,  
winterbloom and wild olive,  
so we are vouchsafed  
by the heritance of determining.  
A seed sires the prairies  
and draws the prairie birds.  
We pass away to migrants  
in the nectar glands of willows,  
deertongue moors the whiteheart,  
a chant becomes a warble,  
a warble, a toneless plea.

KIMBERLY BURWICK