THE BRANCH WILL NOT BREAK: POEMS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649404544

The Branch Will Not Break: Poems by James Wright

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JAMES WRIGHT

THE BRANCH WILL NOT BREAK: POEMS



THE BRANCH WILL NOT BREAK

POEMS BY

JAMES WRIGHT

Ach, könt' ich dorthin kommen, Und dort mein Herz erfreu'n, Und aller Qual entnommen, Und frei und selig sein.

Ach, jedes Land der Wonne! Das seh' ich oft im Traum. Doch kommt die Morgensonne, Zerfliesst's wie eitel Schaum.



WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY PRESS MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT

COPYRIGHT @ 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 BY JAMES WRIGHT

All rights reserved.

For permission to reprint some of these poems, the author wishes to make due acknowledgment to the editors of the following: The Fifties, The Sixties, The Minnesota Review, Big Table, Harper's Magazine, The Paris Review, Audience, Botteghe Oscure, Poetry (Chicago), The Kenyon Review, The New York Times (daily), The Nation, Chicago Choice, and The Hudson Review. The poem "By a Lake in Minnesota" appeared originally in The New Yorker.

I am also grateful to three particular friends: Miss Mary Bly, for her self and for the poem which bears her name; Heinrich Heine, for his beautiful song "Aus alten Märchen winkt es"; and Allen Tate, for his

friendship in a difficult time.

All inquiries and permissions requests should be addressed to the Publisher, Wesleyan University Press, 110 Mt. Vernon Street, Middletown, Connecticut o6457

Distributed by Harper & Row Publishers, Keystone Industrial Park, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18512 The Library of Congress cataloged the first printing as follows:

Wright, James Arlington, 1927—
The branch will not break; poems. [1st ed.] Middletown, Conn., Wesleyan University Press [1963]
59 p. 21 cm.
1. Title.
PS3545.R58B7 811.54 63-8858

PS3545.R58B7 811.54 63-8858 Library of Congress [3]

> Manufactured in the United States of America First printing, 1963; twelfth printing, 1987 Wesleyan Poetry

ELEUTHERIA

Μνάσεσθαί τινά φαιμ δότερον αμμέουν. (Sappho)

CONTENTS

AS I STEP OVER A PUDDLE AT THE END OF WINTER, I THINK OF AN

ANCIENT CHINESE GOVERNOR : II

GOODBYE TO THE POETRY OF CALCIUM: 12

IN FEAR OF HARVESTS: 13

THREE STANZAS FROM GOETHE: 14

AUTUMN BEGINS IN MARTINS FERRY, OHIO : 15

LYING IN A HAMMOCK AT WILLIAM DUFFY'S FARM IN PINE ISLAND,

MINNESOTA: 16

THE JEWEL: 17

IN THE FACE OF HATRED : 18

FEAR IS WHAT QUICKENS ME : 19

A MESSAGE HIDDEN IN AN EMPTY WINE BOTTLE THAT I THREW INTO A

GULLY OF MAPLE TREES ONE NIGHT AT AN INDECENT HOUR : 20

STAGES ON A JOURNEY WESTWARD ; 21

HOW MY FEVER LEFT: 23

MINERS : 24

IN OHIO : 25

TWO POEMS ABOUT PRESIDENT HARDING: 26

EISENHOWER'S VISIT TO FRANCO, 1959 : 29

IN MEMORY OF A SPANISH POET : 31

THE UNDERMINING OF THE DEFENSE ECONOMY : 32

TWILIGHTS: 33

TWO HANGOVERS: 34

DEPRESSED BY A BOOK OF BAD POETRY, I WALK TOWARD AN UNUSED

PASTURE AND INVITE THE INSECTS TO JOIN ME : 36

TWO HORSES PLAYING IN THE ORCHARD: 37

BY A LAKE IN MINNESOTA: 38

BEGINNING: 39

FROM A BUS WINDOW IN CENTRAL OHIO, JUST BEFORE A THUNDER

SHOWER: 40

MARCH: 41

TRYING TO PRAY : 42

TWO SPRING CHARMS : 43

SPRING IMAGES: 44

ARRIVING IN THE COUNTRY AGAIN : 45

IN THE COLD HOUSE: 46

SNOWSTORM IN THE MIDWEST : 47

HAVING LOST MY SONS, I CONFRONT THE WRECKAGE OF THE MOON:

CHRISTMAS, 1960: 48

AMERICAN WEDDING : 50

A PRAYER TO ESCAPE FROM THE MARKET PLACE : 51

RAIN : 52

TODAY I WAS HAPPY, SO I MADE THIS FORM : 53

MARY BLY : 54

TO THE EVENING STAR: CENTRAL MINNESOTA: 55

I WAS AFRAID OF DYING : 56

A BLESSING : 57

MILKWEED: 58

A DREAM OF BURIAL : 59



THE BRANCH WILL NOT BREAK