

# *Benjamin*

JOHN STERLING HARRIS

What is it that a father finds in one  
to favor over others?  
Did Isaac know what grace was his  
in primogeniture  
while Ishmael wandered?

Did Esau find  
his father's way not right  
And think the issue  
of the pottage just  
a specious way  
to further  
predestination,

To choose my father—

He passed along that  
odd selection too,  
So Joseph was his pet—

I heard him say that Rachel  
was his love,  
and saw her eyes  
in Joseph's face.

I know such ancient tales  
of brothers—  
one chosen,  
the other not,  
inexplicably—

And like Abel's brother  
wish I knew  
why God must choose.