## 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.

JOHN S. HARRIS, an associate professor of English at Brigham Young University, has published a collection of poems called Barbed Wire (B.Y.U. Press).