

# Over Coffee, 600 B.C.

*Melanie D. Shumway*

A friend of mine told me —  
so I know it's true —  
she saw someone in the road  
behind her house  
last night. He stumbled,  
made a lot of noise. Yelled  
obscenities. A drunk. When he  
called for help, she shut her door.  
Locked it. And so would I  
have locked my door  
if some drunk had bothered me.

Anyway, this morning  
when she looked around  
she found the man  
lying in the alley —  
without his head.  
She brought a sheet to cover him —  
the only decent thing to do —  
even though he was a drunk.  
Then she noticed he'd been robbed.  
His sword  
and breastplate — gone.

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But I told her  
what my mother always says,  
two wrongs don't make a right,  
and she agreed.  
But now the problem is  
a madman roams the streets.  
There's no way to know  
what he'll do next.  
I hope he's caught and put to death  
before he kills again and disturbs  
us decent people of Jerusalem.