

Joseph Loved His Women

Mary Lythgoe Bradford

Joseph loved his women
beginning with strong Lucy
who prayed him back to health.
He loved his sister Sophronia,
and he loved sweet Emma to distraction,
trusting her to translate without the hat.
He trusted her to bury the plates
inside her house, inside herself.
He loved intellectual women best
like Eliza and Diantha,
who were true as scripture.
No woman ever denounced him
not even Emma who stayed behind
to rear strong sons
while others railed against her:
"If you hadn't been born a woman,
You'd be Perdition's son."

It was his love of women
that hammered his courage into gold.