

## Third Watch

*Jonathon Egan*

### I. League of Miles

That time we drove from Idaho to LA  
and you spelled me after midnight,  
I didn't want you to think me ungrateful

for only fitfully napping. But how could I slumber  
when everything I loved best in the world—  
you, and the kids sacked out in the backseat—

hinged on the caffeine pill  
you took outside Vegas?

How do I just lay down the burden  
of tending with you  
the flame of wakefulness across the desert?

To let you shelter alone  
in the shadow of your hands  
that flickering flame against the gale?

### II. Specific Heat

And how could He bear to withhold  
the strength of His mighty arm  
when the universe poured  
unmitigated

through a person-shaped hole,  
to yield a sheen of iron-slick sweat  
from unblemished skin,

to change the state of nature  
and break the heart of God?

### III. Apocalypse

Yet in kindness and great mercy  
pressed down and shaken together,  
you cover my eyes

and bid me sleep now, and take my rest.

DENNIS CLARK {sinned@xmission.com} is a retired librarian who lives near Rock Canyon with Valerie. When he is not riding his recumbent bike or maintaining their house, he is writing, usually poems.

JONATHON EGAN shares his poetry at the spectacularly mediocre website, Underwhelm (<https://underwhelmcloud.wordpress.com/>). In addition to writing, his creative work includes the faith-centered alternative and progressive rock album, *Godspeed* (2016), with the band Bravery Test. He is proud to be a “Roseburg Dad” ([roseburgband.com](http://roseburgband.com)). All Jonathon’s kids are cooler than he ever was, and his wife is smarter than him. Honestly, he is just glad to be here.