

POETRY

Note: *The following poems are reprinted from Tyler Chadwick, ed., Fire in the Pasture: Twenty-First Century Mormon Poets (El Cerrito, Calif.: Peculiar Pages, 2011). Fire in the Pasture received the Association for Mormon Letters award for poetry in 2011. Tyler Chadwick has joined the Dialogue Editorial Board as Poetry Editor.*

Perplexed by the Revelator's Heaven

Scott Cameron

The earth in its sanctified and immortal state will be made like unto crystal (D&C 130:9)

Aren't leaves crumbling against the edge
of autumn, the fibrous tangle
of the lesser shrew's heart, and a prophet curled
in the belly of night, shaking like a reed fragile enough?

Why transmute Alps or Andes into Spanish crystal
or celestialize black forests into a clarity
that can shatter?

Won't porcelain branches snap
like the camel's leg, the donkey's left ear,
the Christ child's outstretched
wrist, glued and glued but always somewhat scarred?

I have seen too much of crystalline nativity to wish
the world's rebirth a sea of glass.