

New Land

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(for Adam Small 1936–2016)

Black mountain silence.
Broken land
without breath.

Three thin white trees.

A woman with a rock on her back
where her baby used to be.

*

Bare river panting.
Steep sky
without air.

Three thin yellow dogs.

A man with a rusted spade
where his hand used to be.

*

Old words undefeated.
Old songs
without any rest.

Three thin blue chimes.

A child with a torch in its mouth
where the long night used to be.

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