



And They Shall Wear Purple: New and Selected Poems

Jean Hollander

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Delight in the presence of a poet so sane as to make you want to sit at her feet, lean against her knees. And yet, Jean Hollander's poetry won't stroke your cheek with comforting missives—her work is commanding, powerful, spare as a shinbone. The author of five collections of poetry, a translator of Dante from the German, she held teaching positions at Princeton University, and Brooklyn and Columbia Colleges.

After Going West

*Three sprigs of lavender
my son brought back for me
after hiking with friends,
and I no longer invited*

*the manhood I raised having come,
the stubble awkward on his chin,
he reads Hesse and Salinger
and not the books I thrust on him*

*I think his frame too big
to have come out of my womb,
I renounce the baby head pushing, I give
the freedom he has taken gladly*

*crawled out of comfort,
he has erupted mothering
and I am happy, tired of the labor,
and touching his separate skin*

*for the second time I feel
the wonder of that parting.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (Fall 2016)

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