

JOHN O' LONDON'S, 29th March, 1962

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### The condemned man

And when he knew for sure  
he was to die that day,  
for him the grass stirred in the wind  
as it had never done before;  
the birds he saw  
were no longer birds, but lives  
that would outlast his own.  
Everything drew breath,  
nothing was still, the stones  
were beautiful in the path  
he walked, and he bore no grudge.

He had no regret for the places  
he would never see,  
only regret for those few times  
he had stood on the mountain alone  
searching the scalping wind.  
No matter that he would miss  
things unrevealed to him;  
it only really mattered  
that he knew now  
that what he had known and loved  
he had misused,  
and that he knew for sure  
he was to die that day:  
and, knowing this, he began to live.

KEITH BARNES.

29 MAR 62

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