

LI PO (701-762)

A NIGHT WITH FRIENDS

That we may purge
 the world's unending sadness
Let's linger here
 and drink these wine-jars dry.

This night's sheer sheen
 invites long conversation,
The moon's too bright
 for sleep to ease one's eye
But, safely drunk,
 let's bed on this bare mountain;
Our pillow, earth,
 our coverlet, the sky.

(Translated from the Chinese by Graeme Wilson)

ROBERT HANDICOTT

AFTER RAIN, NELLY BAY

The hills are disrobing
for the sun; for the moment their heads
are lost in their petticoats.