



## Yuan Hongbing: Altar

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## Altar (祭壇)

YUAN HONGBING (袁红冰)

Ardent hearts,  
doused  
in dead-cold desolation.  
Blasted hearts,  
changed  
to massive crags, wind-riven.

At the top of these rocky crags,  
an altar, endlessly rebuilt.  
And offered there,  
offered there:  
hardened blood, a single drop;  
glittering ice, a single piece;  
feathery sunlight, one gold gleam.

The sunlight is pain and sorrow, carved on iron bones,  
the cold ice, grief and mourning; it will not melt away.

And

The hardened blood—  
the hardened blood—  
one night's legacy: 6/4.