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Robert Cooperman

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# John Sprockett Considers the Widow Burden and William Eagle Feather

by Robert Cooperman

They're stuck as molasses,  
that's the problem:  
her a preacher's widow,  
him a half-breed folks tolerate  
for being a Shakespeare  
at tracking long riders.

He knew I did the Preacher,  
and why, but kept silent,  
so I owe him.

Still, a lynch mob might pin  
Preacher's death on them:  
aside from that opera singer  
whose voice can sharp-shoot glass,  
our one entertainment's  
a hanging, and if a woman  
does that mortal waltz,  
even better,  
like that Calico-Sally  
exalted for blasting  
her fancy-man beater

After the one time  
I rode her, she returned  
to reading poetry.  
I recited one; she sobbed,  
"I'll do you free from now on,"  
like I was her golden knight.  
Neither poetry nor me  
could save her,  
though I can help Miss Lavinia  
and her half-breed sparker:  
pay my debt to that whore.

