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Robert Cooperman

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William Eagle Feather Attends the Funeral of the Reverend Burden

by Robert Cooperman

Not out of respect
for that demon crow-coat
that would cry, "Jesus!"
like he loaned Him
his best collar
and wanted it back,

but to catch a glimpse
of Preacher's widow:
her sun-colored hair
features honest
as mountain flowers,
her hands that never
pluck nervous as spiders,
but lie in her lap,
calm as the moon.

Even from the back row
the Widow's tall and trim
as a lone pine
against the wind and rain.
her eyes settle on me
for an instant, lips upturned
quick as the flick
of a hummingbird's wings.

No, just a fancy:
the time she sat by my fire,
plain she thought me
an ignorant savage
unable to say
two smart words
to an Eastern lady.

To be continued in future issues

These poems are part of a collection entitled *The Widow's Burden*.

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