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After Eden

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AFTER EDEN

by Richard Brostoff

Beyond the garden's gate, Adam lingered
under the shade of a lone sycamore,

looking out on the strewn stones,
the desiccated Earth. No stream, not now—

time's arc no longer welled up
like the garden's fountain,

one moment transforming into the next,
or unfurled with the water's easy rush,

its usher into flowering. No more
a day's transparencies, emanating

from a single source. Now hurled
to scattering, like something crushed,

each moment lay as if particulate—
something one could number,

and burdened with weight.