
Ha-Makom (The Place)

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Of course Isaac was sacrificed—
what else can you call it?
Three days on the road and no answer,
and then the answer—the knife.

And what can we say of Abraham
that God-ridden man
who sacrificed two sons?
Picture him, dour and humorless
alongside his laughing boy,
three days to think it over.

Why are we shocked?
We do it all the time
for one god or another.
Sometimes it takes three days,
sometimes a lifetime, sometimes
only an instant, the flash of a knife.
We even make them carry the wood.
It's not on our hands—
God did it.

They say it came out right
at the last minute,
it didn't really happen.
I say the wounding lasted forever.

So Abraham came down from the mountain
and went on his way. And Isaac? He's still up there trying to figure out
who can you trust in this world.