

## The Miracles That Didn't Come

Beside the bitter water lay bison skulls,  
Rancid pools stalked by carrion birds;  
Water, stale and green blanketed,  
Promised no healing, but death.

Pioneers passed the pools  
Watching for an Elisha.<sup>1</sup>

Food ran short. No culinary skills  
Could compensate for nothing. Birds  
Ate more. A pall of hunger blanketed  
The camp, stalked by death.

Looking for their provisions,  
They waited for an Elisha.<sup>2</sup>

Sallow children, skin tight to their skulls,  
Strained against the air. Like tiny birds  
Their heads bobbed loose in the blankets  
Until they fell into death—

Buried on the trek by parents  
Who wished for an Elisha.<sup>3</sup>

—Sally T. Taylor

---

<sup>1</sup>2 Kgs. 2:19-22.

<sup>2</sup>2 Kgs. 4:7.

<sup>3</sup>2 Kgs. 4:32-37.