

# *How To Pray*

*H*e asked of me

Help me pray

An odd request from one so learned

Who has the mind, the heart, and tears why does he need my help to pray?

We spoke a while

and then his request grew clearer

He wanted to pray

not as if he were unrelated, a stranger to his people, to his father's people.

He wants to pray as part of a community with a language of its own

a melody of its own a history of its own a future of its own.

He intuited the immortality for his father was bound to the eternity of his people

He wanted rituals that bind generations.

What did he want of me?

Teach me to pray

Not as an isolated spirit

But as part of the transcendent God

who brings the congregants to the bosom of His memory.

Teach me to pray

as my ancestors prayed and as in time, hopefully

my children will learn to pray.

