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## Aubade with Scripture

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*Michael Shewmaker*

## Aubade with Scripture

After the wedding,  
I wake the way

we fell asleep—  
in a cheap motel,

buzzing, your head  
against my chest,

the TV lighting  
the gaudy art

(a pastel lily  
gilded with dew)

above our bed.  
Since it's Sunday

the televangelist  
raises his hand—

the way you do  
while dancing slow—

to pray for all  
our sins. Bless him

and his bold tie  
brighter than Easter.

Soon, we'll rise  
ourselves and shower

in the poor pressure.  
I'll help you towel

and braid your hair.  
We'll load the car

together. Driving  
along the coast—

above the bluffs'  
receding shadows,

the shaded waves'  
seeming retreat—

I'll recall the verse  
he's reading now.

Something about  
a redundant sun—

a river ending  
in an endless sea.

Something about  
our vanities.