

Psalm 46:5, in which they come for the body

by [Brian Doyle](#) in the [May 16, 2012](#) issue

They are coming for the body; a nurse certifies  
That who she was is no longer resident in what  
She was, *selah*. *They* turn out to be one woman.  
Her name is Helene. *Selah*. She eases what was  
A woman onto a gurney. A daughter assists her.  
Though the waters roar and be troubled, we will  
Not fear, though the mountains vanish in the sea.  
*Selah*. Would you like your mother to be facing  
Up or down? Up, please, *selah*. She zips the bag.  
She did believe, yes she did, *selah*, she received  
The glories of the Lord each and every day with  
Her eyes which remained hawkish until her final  
Breath. Is that so? says Helene, *selah*. Transplant  
Candidates, then, certainly. Sign here . . . and here.  
I will drive very carefully, absolutely. His mercy  
Upon her soul, *selah*. She trusted in thee. Refuge  
She will discover in thee, and her husband's arm,  
And her mother's kiss, and all calamities are past,  
*Selah*, and housekeeping will come for the sheets.  
God is in the midst of her, and God shall help her.  
There is a river; the waters of which have no end;  
Amen and then again amen. In the lobby a father  
Is reading the sports section while his child gulps  
The biggest soda I have ever seen on this blessed  
Wild and weary earth; amen and then again amen.