

For shadowment: Villanelle for the solstice

by [Angela Alaimo O'Donnell](#) in the [December 12, 2012](#) issue

Here, here in the crook of the year,  
the crux and fix and flux of the year  
light falls long across and dear.

Here in the ruck and dreck of the year  
We glean and gather grace and gear,  
here, here in the crook of the year.

Here is the neckbone of the year,  
its knuckle sharp, its blade sheer,  
where light falls long across and dear.

Hear the matins of the year,  
the chant of praise and marrow fear,  
here, here in the crook of the year.

Cheer the vespers of the year,  
the prayers that rise from tongue to ear  
as light falls long across and dear.

Clear your mind as night draws near.  
Stead your heart and shed no tear.  
Here, here in the crook of the year  
where light falls long across and dear.