

They still produce fruit

by [Philip C. Kolin](#) in the [June 7, 2017](#) issue

Even in old age they still produce fruit  
these holy souls reaching beyond  
the lapses and losses of the body.

In the bountiful boughs and leaves  
of threefold-rooted olive trees,  
palms and cedars, they find

the legacy from the creator  
to his creation, freedom  
from the bondage of desiccated time.

An old woman wrinkled with years  
has eyes as lustrous as Aegean coral  
holding the hope of rapture.

The minister's collar outgrows his voice  
yet he still harvests fulsome sounds  
playing the pipe organ proclaiming Christ.

These souls flourish in this world  
until they are crowned and leave  
in a rush of green one night.