

Water & salt

by [Scott Dalgarno](#) in the [November 4, 2020](#) issue

The weeping woman who knelt at the feet  
of Jesus and anointed him for burial  
is sister to the lithe Abishag; the maid

who cradled the hoary head of David  
and warmed his paper skin with her own.  
Her tears remind one of Bathsheba's,

wept over a husband, murdered  
by a lover-king. The salt from those tears  
brings to mind Lot's nameless wife

who found herself drowned in a tsunami  
of fear and regret. There is an essential  
economy in the scriptures. Nothing

is ever wasted. Like water and salt,  
everything is repurposed, recycled,  
reborn. Figs from Naboth's stolen

vineyard fill the borrowed dish  
Jesus shared with Judas in an upper  
room while the bones of Joseph can be found

littering Ezekiel's dreams. Even the swords  
that Herod's men drew against the babes  
of Palestine were forged, one by one,

in the granite heart of Egypt's pharaoh.  
And look, the pair of doves  
Noah released with such hope have flown

and flown until they have found their rest  
in Jerusalem in the leathered hands

of Joseph, Jesus being but eight days old.