

Blessings

by [D. S. Martin](#) in the [August 2024](#) issue

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### **1st Blessing**

When there are holes in your sail  
a gash in your hull you know better  
than to head for open river

Knowing better might mean  
knowing your rowing is weak your  
skills the wrong sort to deliver

like when you seek a shore too far  
for splintering oars for hands blistered &  
pierced with each sliver

Being sovereign over nothing readies  
you to believe in the kingdom that can  
knock you back into kilter

Once your sinking spirit knows how  
blessed it is to receive you can be open  
your sea chest filling with silver

### **2nd Blessing**

Burning into your soul like a scorching  
sun that bakes soil breaks stones  
shrivels corn

it takes both head & heart first the  
knowing & then the ache of knowing  
that makes you mourn

Because your cry for compassion  
in this dry & thirsty land feels so  
inadequate you scorn

your tears as useless to make  
even one parched stick bloom  
But then to be regretful & forlorn

can be both the beginning of wisdom  
& the break in the dam that brings  
solace to the torn

It seems first we're shaken before  
being soothed Comfort comes  
to those who mourn