

**Stephen Robertson**

## **Epicycle**

Wake.

Feel the water. Push out below,  
tendrils into the dark and damp. Now push out above,  
buds into the waxing light, the spring rain. Throw open  
the fire-coloured temptations, welcome in  
the roaming bees.

Feel the fire. Spread out a green canopy  
in the warming sunlight. Soak up the rays and the air.  
Transform the coloured flower into coloured flesh  
and hide a secret inside.

Feel the air. Turn in the four winds. Broadcast the secret  
to earth, as far away as it will go. Let the browns  
and reds and golds replace the greens. Now throw the canopy too  
to the winds, let it whirl away  
into the encroaching dark.

Feel the earth. Feel the water return  
to the dry ground. Let the cooling dark  
settle around and about, under and over.  
Complete another ring.

Sleep.