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## The Passion of St. Anthony

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# The Passion of St. Anthony

Jeremy Schwager

A certain darkness envelops me,  
In which dark ones dwell,  
And I like a resident alien,  
Receive their disapproving stares.

Coming near, I see their desire.  
Fear closes in on me.  
A winding sheet wrapping tight,  
Preventing resistance or escape.

Then they close in, circling,  
A great legion of calculating malice.  
“A piece of flesh here,  
Some dignity there, but keep him alive.”

And so piece-by-piece I disappear,  
From the inside, they pull out what once was me,  
Until only a shell remains  
And a certain lightness pervades.



National Cathedral  
Washington DC

John Mark Feilmeyer