

“ELEGY”

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Elegy

Strung up like men on gallows,
equal distances between them,
your shirts hang motionless,
looking for their arms and necks.
Your pants want to walk about
but can't find their legs
and don't know where to go.

Your shoes nudge each other,
trying to mutiny on the floor of the closet,
but they've lost their feet.
In the dark drawer, your socks can't undo their knots.

Your slippers cower under the nightstand,
beaten, mute.
Your bathrobe can't draw itself up to its full stature.
See, it bends at the waist
over your walker, and weeps.

* **Sr. LUCILLE C. THIBODEAU, p.m., Ph.D.**, is Writer-in-Residence at Rivier University. A Professor of English, Emerita, she was President of Rivier from 1997-2001. She earned her Ph.D. from Harvard University in Comparative Literature (British, French, and Medieval Latin literatures) and is a Fellow of the American Council on Education. Sister Lucille is also a member of the New Hampshire Wildlife Coalition and a board member of Voices of Wildlife in New Hampshire. Her current research interests include animal ethics and animal rights. Most recently, she has published an article on factory farming in the United States in *Ethical Vegetarianism and Veganism* (Routledge/Oxford, 2019). In spring 2020 she will teach a course to Rivier juniors entitled Animals, Justice, and Responsibility. Sr. Lucille has published several poems. She continues to work on a book-length manuscript of poems as well as on a memoir.