Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal

Volume 10 | Issue 1

Article 44

June 2010

Funeral Song

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Recommended Citation

Kartalopoulous, Stephanie (2010) "Funeral Song," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 10: Iss. 1, Article 44.

Available at: https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol10/iss1/44

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Kartalopoulous: Funeral Song

FUNERAL SONG Stephanie Kartalopoulos

O crooked plough, you have forgotten the disk harrow. The years of melting and weaponry. The always-raised surface of your mouth, even in the middle of a great dust. How I can trace my fingers across you. What will happen now?

The field behind my old house is now full of houses. You have been left to rust in the shackled barn, an overgrown corner, that space beyond the farmers' graves. How will your work song get sung?

Who will join your chorus? On visits home, I walk by your weathered cage. For you, I will remember the prayers for a healthy crop, the eroded sediment, the river soil, the field of bent wheat.

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