

## SUNSET AND EVENING STAR

Too late now to seek another way;  
    The road grows alien as the border nears;  
A hard star mars the fading of the day.

No other searcher went so far astray;  
    No other's footprint in the path appears.  
Too late now to seek another way

Into that brooding landscape where to stay.  
    One hour wears out in time one thousand years.  
A hard star mars the fading of the day

And casts a faltering, indifferent ray  
    Upon the withered pastures, stones and briars.  
Too late now to seek another way

To attend the healing ritual, to say  
    The magisterial phrases. No one cares.  
A hard star mars the failing of the day

As in the west clouds gather thick and gray  
    And night its eastward scarp of darkness rears:  
Too late now to seek another way.  
A bad star marks the failure of the day.