

Thomas Gardner: On "Dream Song 29"

? The thing that has broken his heart seems simply a heaviness to which no action ("weping") or amount of time can adequately respond. So dominant that any sound or smell recalls it, that heaviness remains a tangling of rage and responsibility for which Henry has no adequate object. ?

from Thomas Gardner, "John Berryman's Dream Songs," Chapter 1 in *Discovering Ourselves in Whitman: The Contemporary American Long Poem* (Urbana: U Illinois P, 1989), 40.

Publication Status:

Excerpted Criticism [1]

Publication:

- Private group -

Criticism Target:

John Berryman [2]

Author:

Thomas Gardner [3]

Poem:

Dream Song 29 [4]

Source URL: <http://www.modernamericanpoetry.org/criticism/thomas-gardner-dream-song-29>

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