

## Jack Chambers / FOUR POEMS

### 1

*and in a moment—*

and in a moment this I heard  
falling from the womb into light;  
this and the kettle of hoofs,  
the goose's horn,  
the drop of the cloth  
to the clock's earth.  
this, and the rip of flesh,  
the tug of the leash  
on the dog's heart.

## 2

*it was difficult—*

it was difficult to waken.

heavy with sleep my eyes drew back  
into the soft dark caves and slept.

I coaxed my waking self to linger,  
entertained my restiveness with dreams—

—a package for me?—made of wood?

—with a carved horse's head?—on a string?

I awoke.

I must go to town this morning for a parcel  
brought in from Palma by a friend.

I opened the shutters wide.

the sky laughed.

the sun walked into the woods

and last night's rain dazzled the trees.

### 3

*Pasternak's Images*

When the rest attacked the trees  
pursuing leaves,  
he made a boat  
and with a lady and the family cat  
blessed the current  
and they moved on.  
Some time later  
arriving at the sea  
they raised a toast  
to the river and the stars  
to prepare longer voyage  
in the same company.  
But the din of chopping and  
of falling trees  
angered, saddened him enough that  
he made a narrow path  
into the circular of hatchet-work  
and set free two or three.

# 4

## *Inmate #2*

just let me lie quiet behind the bars  
with my hands bound.  
outside cones fall from the trees  
and the ground is black and green  
after a rain.  
others talk in the ward and I whisper to one;  
—evil angels have overrun my kingdom  
while I slept; I can't go back.

but here there are beautiful things around me.  
over the cold stones I go barefoot to the window.  
the cold bars in my hands make me shiver.  
I cannot get out, I am mad the walls say.  
it is the middle of the walls that speak,  
there can be no mistake.  
the corners are warm and still and beckon me.  
I lie down in the corner but I'm shivering.  
I cannot get in, I am mad the corners say.  
I get up and look out at the trees and the field.  
you cannot get out say the bars  
you cannot get in say the trees  
you are mad says the field retreating  
to a light in the sky.