

## Prayer Is a Double Agent

By Thomas Alan Orr

God sings by himself in acres of night  
 And walls fall down, that guarded Paradise.  
 Thomas Merton, "A Psalm"

Prayer is a double agent,  
 Breaching borders in many disguises,  
 Bearing secrets in elegant codes,  
 Seducing beautiful skeptic minds,  
 Slipping away undetected in the dark.

Prayer is quick on the draw,  
 Vigilant and sly in danger,  
 Forward scout in rough terrain,  
 A clear-eyed hawk at dawn,  
 A crack shot in tangled woods.

Prayer is a passionate lover,  
 Fiercely loyal to unfettered hearts,  
 Bearing the freight of desperate hope,  
 A talisman against the snare of fear,  
 The tor where desert meets the sea.

Prayer is an angel near the ear of God,  
 The whisper of mercy, the laughter of grace,  
 The lyric voice affirming silence  
 In the din of chaos, where spirits wander  
 Until the gates of Paradise swing wide.



Thomas Alan Orr

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Thomas Alan Orr's poems have appeared in *Good Poems*, edited by Garrison Keillor, and other anthologies and journals. He recently worked with Indianapolis artist Tim Harmon on a poetry-visual arts collaboration for the Harrison Gallery in Indianapolis. His second book of poems, *Tongue to the Anvil*, is due in late 2014 from Restoration Press.