

# When the saints went

By Samiya Bashir

what remained: barren stalks bowing heads  
by the field-full. rusty air conditioners dripping  
from warped windowsills. rock formations retaining roots.

hollowed out caves and dog stumps forced ragged, toothy grins.  
all ablaze. a laser show shot hot through the tinny night. every husk  
wore a well lit protrusion. every breath an asthmatic thrush more material

than the silence that surrounds each carcass now: voided prayer: cold  
arthritic grating: remembering notions of breath. saints: offer a hand to a  
wheezing shadow: wish for someone to hold before the sure, sudden twilight.

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