

Karl Plank

STABILITY

“Who could dislodge us from this blatant happiness?”

--Fr. Christophe Lebreton, OCSO

Tibhirine, May 7, 1995

i vow to stay here

where mountains shelter night's office
and stone walls echo our waking cry

where we wait for the gift to breathe
and pray among others who pray

mohammed and moussa who sows beans
while speaking of One who wants our happiness

together disarmed all

a *blatant happiness* in this house where we dwell
to abide until summoned for death

and even then (even now after)

my cross buried
a seed in the soil

where my body lies and brothers have come
to plant apple trees that stand in my stead

while i whisper *à-Dieu*

--from *Kestrel* 35 (Spring 2016): 57