

Give Winter Nothing
By Dudley Stone

After James Wright

Give Winter nothing. Offer it no edge
to cling to, no cracks, no fast footholds.
Be sheer, smooth, and unwelcoming.

If you wear Summer tropical and naked,
Winter will drape itself around you like
a mountain on which green climbers leave their dead.

Turn a cold shoulder to the cold. Arm yourself
with refusal to welcome Winter's hungry
relatives, Death, Despair, and all their fellow Furies.