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Ru-ach
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**Ru-ach**

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A Reviewer of B. W. Powe’s *Ladders Made of Water*  
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Breezes  
bend the sheaves of wheat, stirring  
words I can’t retrieve. The stalks  
lean, the spikes list.  
Why did I count on memory?  
The words were good—  
I should have written them  
when I could.  
A boy appears on the road, alone,  
strolling near the wheat. I want to ask him:  
*Where is your father,*

*your mother?* Instead, I bend  
and list. He picks up  
rocks and caches them—  
like a hobbyist—in his pockets.  
He must sense something  
in-between the sheaves. He  
reaches out  
to touch the circum-ambient wordless wind.

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**Ru-ach:** The Hebrew noun *ru-ach* (נַח) can refer to breath, wind, or some invisible moving force, as in spirit.