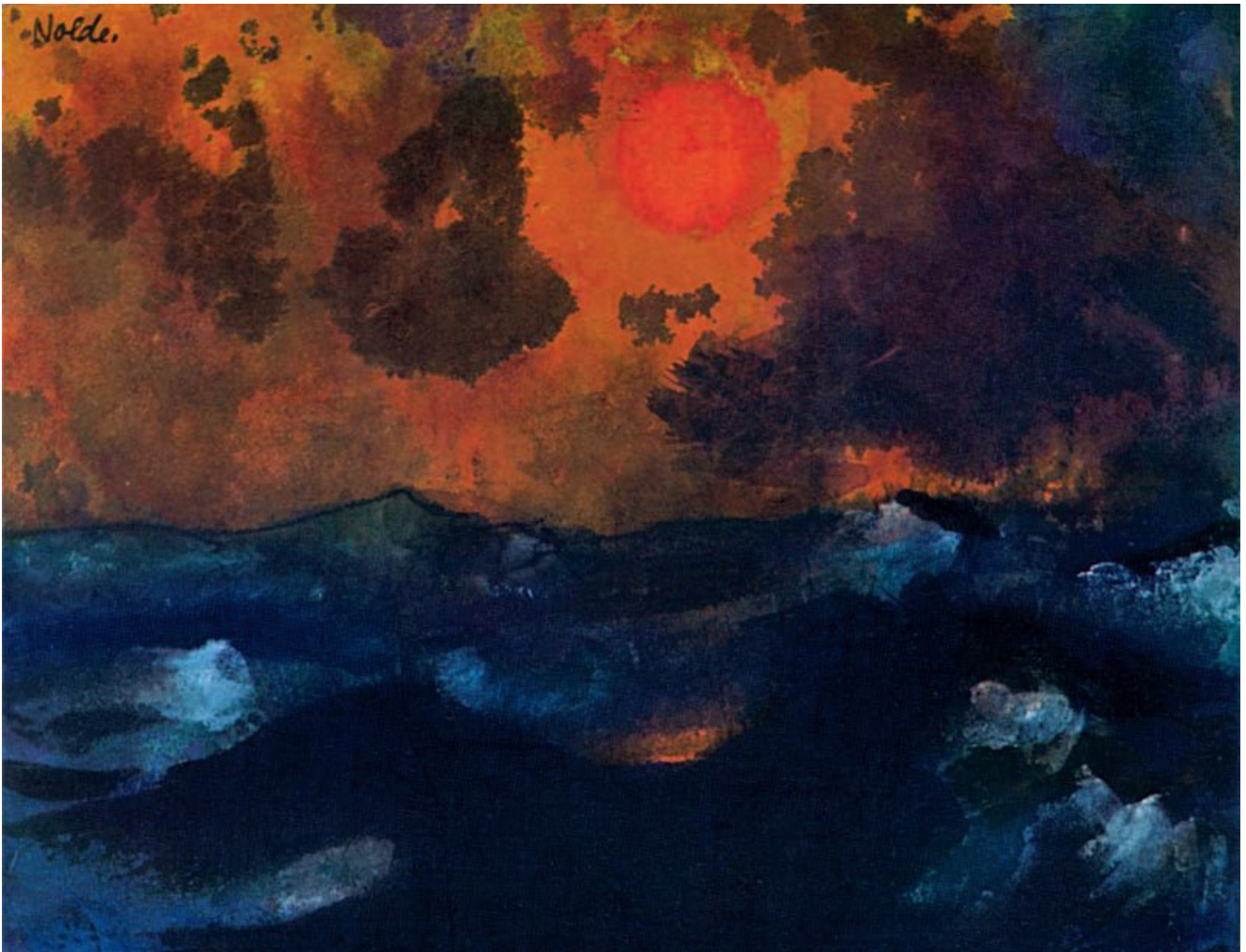


# Two Poems

by [Oisín Breen](#) (April 2021)



*Sea with Red Sun*, Emil Nolde

## *Cathecism*

For all that I have forsworn that holy gabbling over root and  
seed and sheaf,  
For all that I have said—and meant—that my only cathexis would  
from now on be the milk white of trailing legs—  
I know what it is to feel an absence of the heart, one that  
the depths of laughter can not fill.

I know it is a relentless need that will not abate,  
And I know I must—in the face of its storm—I know I must  
relent

I RELENT  
DEAR LORD  
I RELENT

Yet much as I can not forswear your love,  
I can not avoid your censure,  
For the glutting of my soul is as unavoidable as the  
saturation of my senses,  
And I am hungry for skin brushed with skin.

Thus, since you must censure me,  
Let it be in hot poison,  
And let me be what I must be:

The most human of your instruments,  
and the most divine.

## *Winter*

Where the seed and stamen previously gorged on deep breaths of  
water,  
The sacrament of need breeds a chalara,  
A knot in the impulse of having.

And the forest floor lays covered,  
Spread with the sinews of your stretched heart:

A canker, like a diamond

Grey wood, creeping along the bark

A dryness, and the knowledge that you are not what you once  
were.

Amen.

«[Previous Article](#) [Table of Contents](#) [Next Article](#)»

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Oisín Breen is a poet, part time academic in narratological complexity, and a financial journalist. Dublin born and bred, Breen spent the last decade living in Edinburgh, after a rip-roaring period that took in, amongst other things, the Middle East; a stint in a bizarre one-donkey town with excellent wine; and a total inability to properly fit a door onto a mountain. His debut [collection](#), *Flowers, all Sorts in Blossom, Figs, Berries, and Fruits, Forgotten* was released last year by Hybrid press in Edinburgh ([hybriddreich.co.uk](http://hybriddreich.co.uk)).

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