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Poetry: The Moon is in the Eastern Sky

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Religion In The Secular City

by
Harvey Cox

New York:
Simon and Schuster, 1984

Two decades ago most prognosticators of things religious were proclaiming the imminent death of God and of religion as an important human expression in an increasingly secular world. Religion, they said, would be relegated to family and private interpersonal relationships and would no longer shape political, economic and the larger social institutions. One of those seers was Professor Harvey Cox, Harvard theologian, who, in his *The Secular City* (New York: MacMillan, 1965) articulated the assessments and expectations of many modern liberal theologians. Since 1965, however, many events have occurred that belie those predictions.

The chaotic uprisings of the late 60s and early 70s seemed proof of religion's failures, but most observers failed to note the religious fervor that undergirded them. The anti-Viet Nam and civil rights protests were certainly religiously oriented. The decade from 1965-1975 saw a number of holy wars in the Middle East and a resurgence of religious conservatism culminating in the return of the Ayatollah Khomeini to rule in Iran. Since then we have witnessed the religious battles with Lebanon, the continuing strife in Northern Ireland, the religious tenacity of the Catholics of Poland who defy even Russian might, the near fanatical acclamation of Pope John Paul II wherever in the world he visits, the rise of Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority and other fundamentalist religious sects and cults in America (and their perhaps decisive influence on the 1984 presidential election), and the burgeoning influence of "Liberation Theology" in Central and South America.

Professor Cox, in his most recent work, *Religion in the Secular City: Toward a Postmodern Theology* now proclaims the demise of modern liberal theology and, focusing on fundamentalism and liberation

The Moon Is In The Eastern Sky

*The moon is in the eastern sky.
There are no storms tonight,
no threat of snow;
the thin-lipped bay has eaten
all the clouds had left.*

*The space between the stars is deeper,
all their violence flawless.
There is no wind;
each tree is perfect separateness
Each stone has grown a shadow.*

*I am further from the next house.
My house has grown the shadow
of a woman in a window.
The thin body of the mercury
measures this cold peace.*

Faye George Hennebury

Faye George Hennebury currently works at Bridgewater State College as a secretary in the Humanities Department. Her poetry has appeared in *Yankee* and *Poet Lore*. She has published also in the *Anthology of Magazine Verse* and *Yearbook of American Poetry* (1980), featuring the "choicest poetry of the year" selected from magazines across the United States and Canada. Her varied background includes radio copy/continuity writing, and public relations work in human services and municipal government. She has two children and one grandchild.