

DEBORAH PURDY

Memory and Prophecy

Every day two worlds lie at my door—
the ashes of the faded year
and the most ancient

suggestion of something
in the path
between earth and sky.

In the twilight
a certain gray,
a playground of wind

with low whisperings—
a magical cadence
through a mist of legend.

The stars remember
the invisible fields,
but they are vacant.

ABOUT THE POEM

“Memory and Prophecy” was created from *Under the Trees and Elsewhere* by Hamilton Wright Mabie (1891). About the poem and the process of composing it, Deborah Purdy writes:

Reading through *Under the Trees and Elsewhere*, I compiled a list of potentially useful words and phrases. As I started combining segments, I became aware of a certain musicality and mystical theme.

