

WILDA MORRIS

Is This Vanity?

before
stars
are darkened
and doors
shut

the voice
of a bird

ABOUT THE POEM

“Is This Vanity?” was created from the American Standard Version of the Bible (1901). About the poem and the process of composing it, Wilda Morris writes:

This is a 12-word poem, with the words drawn (in the order in which they appear in the source text) from the twelfth chapter of Ecclesiastes. The title reflects the statement in this chapter (and elsewhere in Ecclesiastes) that “all is vanity.”

