

scapegoating. This is simultaneously a cultural, political, social and spiritual process which, even if the tide seems to run counter, we can promote—by trying ourselves not to make scapegoats. Secondly, we have to find ways to accept and even enjoy the existence of differences between people without placing one person in a dominating role over another person and thus creating an oppressive society. In this context the feminist movement may play a decisive role, for the difference between men and women is one of the most fundamental differences in culture. Christianity preaches a God who is very different from us while at the same time sharing our lives and concerns, and doing this without manipulating us. In the perspective of refusing to scapegoat anybody or our own selves or a system, and in the perspective of attempting to create differences without domination, the third path we can follow can be the reading of the Scriptures with new eyes, for the gospel invites us to reject scapegoating and live with a God who became man among us.

The road to a Church that is neither conservative nor progressive and to a society that is neither oppressive nor competitive may be an extremely long, hazardous and painful one. It is a road nobody has ever travelled. Not only the Catholic Church in Holland but all the Christian Churches in the western world have to take this road if they do not want to be extinguished or become empty shells.

## **Judgement Day**

**Justin Brown**

A blade of grass  
                    quivered before the mountain  
shadows cast  
                                of this he was certain  
sheared by the sickle  
  trod on in the fight  
eaten by the cow  
  swallowed by the night