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While They Set Fire to Baghdad

2003

Ritual of early summer:

I plow, disk, hoe the earth black with compost
lay the seeds,
white kidneys

into rows
rake the soil warm as silk
over them

pour water from the generous well
to awaken them.

Drops

glisten on leaves of the plum tree
and mist rises from the creek
consumed by the fire of noon

as in the garden near the Tigris
when we first knew ourselves,
our hunger,

our passions,
our love of revolt,
our sin.