

Writing of the Month



Contagion

by Rachel Cochrane

We enter by the gate
Leave a prayer of petition to St Leonard
That we may seek sanctuary in his infirmary
Where humours of air, water, fire and earth converge
And time stands still in isolation
For we are all lepers now

We follow in the footsteps
Of ancient sacred sandals
Into the garden of healing and anointment
Sage for cleansing, comfrey to heal wounds and inflammation
The sprinkling of rue to exorcise pestilence and plague
For we are all lepers now

We cross the bridge
Over the silver thread of sorrow
That weaves through man's great course
Glance down and see our reflection darkly
Mark lengthening shadows at close of day
For we are all lepers now

*Inspired by Northumberland Park, North Shields, which rests
on the mediaeval site of St Leonard's chapel and infirmary
(thought to have been a leper hospital).*



We welcome all writers, new and experienced

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