

## Prayer

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Does fear of God  
equate to strength of faith?  
If so, I was very holy  
and every illness was divine intervention.  
How I dreaded the cough,  
and trembled at the thought of it.  
It was an ever-present fear, I was surely punished  
for my weakness, and I made deals, promised  
all sorts, actions, good deeds  
that I might recover quickly,  
and this bark,  
would not go down into my chest  
and my throat that felt raw wouldn't close.  
When prayers seemed not to work  
I sought out holy water.  
The holier, the better.  
For I was surely bad, and  
only Lourdes and relics could heal me.  
So the cycle repeated.  
And I prayed prayers to supplant my guilt.

No longer do I fear that wrath.  
Nowadays, I am comfortable with my sins.