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## To Robinson Jeffers

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## To Robinson Jeffers

Mike Vanden Bosch

*I'd sooner, except the penalties, kill a man  
than a hawk...* "Hurt Hawks," Robinson Jeffers

You think a beast without original sin  
unbeastly, without human urge to kill;  
peace-loving, not humanly bent to win  
at all costs every battle of the will.

Of course you never met my father's bull  
who thought the human race was meant for goring;  
nor fed the sow that bit my cousin's full-  
fleshed rump and scarred his soul with hellish roaring.

I'd love to soar with hawks against the sun  
Or hoot with owls at the midnight moon;  
I love to feel a horse beneath me run,  
Or howl with coyotes in a nasal croon.

But if some night I see a squirrel and child  
step into the path of my speeding Ford  
I'll hit the squirrel, soft creature from the wild,  
to spare a ragged image of my Lord.