

9 months

The time has come —
darkness and inhaled water
are about to yield to light
and gasping breaths of air.
The ocean will burst,
and from the broken waters
life will emerge.

In primordial seas
a single cell proliferates —
loses evanescent gills.
An aquatic being now
must try to land.

Skin has wrapped itself
around a little ocean,
in which evolution
has been compressed,
from nine billion years
into nine months.

Behold the newborn —
dry and breathing air.

Evolution has recurred.

Man has arrived.

Robert C. Dickson
Family physician
Hamilton, Ont.