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Poetry: Return of Ulysses

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RETURN OF ULYSSES

Sagging open door. . . .
rotted plank floor
empty rooms, falling roof
weed-filled yard. Desolate proof
of a vanished flow of years . . .
strikes the heart, brings the tears.

Old grubbing-hoe
by the broken fence . . . now so
short the handle, chipped the blade
used by hands long-gone, that made
a bravely-battled try . . . but never won,
working in all seasons, sun-to-sun.

He loved this land, this barren soil
through all the pain, travail and toil.
Those weathered hands that knew so well
how to accept all that befell.
Gnarled rough hands . . . but gentle, their tender touch . . .
Cherished memory that means so much.

Alney Norell