

X. From Sabbaths 2009

In Memory: James Baker Hall

by Wendell Berry

The old know well the world
is the place of the absence of many
known, loved, and gone,
as the mind might contain a sky
empty of birds, an earth
without landmark streams or trees.
The young, the husbands and wives,
know and the old must recall
that all the absent are not gone.
Many are still to come.
The spring of grief also is
the spring of joy. The cup
is dipped and drunk, and the space
of its taking again is filled.