

28.

**Epigraphs for April 2024:
Lines Lifted From Wendell Berry's Sabbath Poems**

**Use any of these lines as an epigraph —as a trampoline on
which to bounce off it into your own poem for today.**

"Bend down, go in by this low door, despite
the thorn and briar that bar the way."

W.B
from Sabbath Poem VI
1980

The warmth has come.
The doors have opened. Flower and song
Embroider ground and air...

W.B
from Sabbath Poem IV
1982

"The burden of absence grows, and I pay
daily the grief I owe to love
for women and men, day and trees
I will not know again."

W.B
from Sabbath Poem I
1985

"The leaves shake in the wind.
I think of that dead friend..."

W.B
from Sabbath Poem II
1989

"We pray
that the continent of love may be shaped within
the continent of power, here by the river of fire.

W.B
from Sabbath Poem VII
1989

“In the great night that gathers up
The earth and sky, slackened, unbent,
Unwanting, without fear or hope,
The body rests without intent.”

W.B.
from Sabbath Poem V
1990

“Now with its thunder spring
returns. The river, raised,
carries the rain away.

W.B.
from Sabbath Poem III
1991

I have departed and returned
too many times to forget
that after all returns
one departure still remains.

W.B.
from Sabbath Poem VIII
1992

“ No, no, there is no going back.
Less and less you are
that possibility you were.
More and more you have become
Those lives and deaths
that have belonged to you. “

W.B.
from Sabbath Poem I
1993

“The young man leaps, and lands
on an old man’s legs.”

W.B.
from Sabbath Poem III
1993

I would not have been a poet
except that I have been in love
alive in this mortal world...

W.B.
from Sabbath Poem VII
1994

The way of love leads always
to life beyond words, silent
and secret. To serve that triumph
I have done all the rest."

W.B
from Sabbath Poem VII
1994

A man with some authentic worries
And many vain and silly ones,
I am well-schooled in sleeplessness;
I know it for the inside out.
I breathe, and I know what's at stake.

W.B
from Sabbath Poem I
1995

Best of any song
is bird song
in the quiet, but first
you must have the quiet.

W.B
whole Sabbath Poem I
1997

"I know that I have life
only insofar as I have love."

W.B
from Sabbath Poem I
2005

"By courtesy of the light
we have the beautiful shadows.

W.B
from Sabbath Poem VIII
2010

"You must live in the day as it passes,
willing to let it go. You must set it
free. You must forget this poem."

W.B
from Sabbath Poem VIII
2010