Lost

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This pair
surely older than
those far hills stood out
with deacon-black clothes,
severe hats, and the quiet
born from lives
of work and pain
and certain pleasure.

In the dull green corridor
one stood silent by his
stricken brother, his twin,
now alone more
than before he was born.

Gurney brother stared,
silent to all except the ceiling.
Standing brother bereft
in his stillness,
king of his fields was lost
in the dark corridor.

In that first week
of hospital mortality
I rushed by,
my innocence
shutter-click stopped
by the Kings' gaze.

I wanted to be where
he was looking;
out of that darkest corridor
to the morning when
I could stand with him

in those bright hills
and hear him speak
of work and pain
and certain pleasure.

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