

**Limen**  
(Ezra Calvin Moe — 1899-1953)

...Abraham took the wood for the holocaust  
and laid it on his son Isaac's shoulders,  
while he himself carried the fire and the knife...

— Genesis 22:6

Fifteen behind a horse-pulled plow  
and proud of furrows sure and deep  
dirt fragrant as any Christmas dinner

His father decides (by what prompting)  
today  
now

To the kitchen  
clear the table  
remove clothing  
onto the table and on his back  
shaving razor rinsed  
peel the slip of ragged skin  
(the father has performed  
more exacting surgeries  
on deer and 'coon some seasons  
or the time a fishhook flew  
from a flung line  
into the center of the dog's right eye)  
little blood  
spit and spread tobacco juice  
around the corona  
with thumb and fore and middle fingers

Pain-dazed the boy sits  
raises his arms through the sleeves  
of a clean dress  
does not know to button it  
the father does

A slow walk together back to the field  
back to the plowing

Rusty C. Moe