

1-1-2011

## The Gift

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### Recommended Citation

Hoover, Heather M. (2011) "The Gift," *Leaven*: Vol. 19: Iss. 1, Article 11.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/leaven/vol19/iss1/11>

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# The Gift

A POEM BY HEATHER M. HOOVER

Oddly heavy, translucent  
and white-veined,  
a gift perhaps, treasure  
from the land of the pharaohs.

Carefully, lovingly  
she cradles it, oil sloshing  
inside. Each step stirring  
the fragrance.

Her gift now, her  
priceless idea, shattered  
with considerable effort,  
more than she expected  
for the delicate alabaster.

*A waste, poured out and broken.*  
And she slowly gathers  
the glistening shards near his feet,  
careful not to pierce his flesh.

She turns them over  
in her hands, oil seeping  
into her own skin,  
knowing its scent will linger  
like the word he used

*anointed.*

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