

Take a loose rein and a deep seat,  
John, my father-in-law, would say  
To someone starting out on a long journey, meaning, take it easy,  
Relax, let what's taking you take you...  
I think of landscape incessantly,  
Mountains and rivers, lost lakes  
Where sunsets festoon and override,  
The scald of summer wheat fields, light-licked and poppy smeared.  
Sunlight surrounds me and winter birds  
Doodle and peck in the dead grass.  
I'm emptied, ready to go. Again  
I tell myself what I've told myself for almost thirty years—  
Listen to John, do what the clouds do.

– Charles Wright, *Disjecta Membra*, from *Black Zodiac*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997.