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Advertisements and Back Cover

Furman University

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Still

WHAT IF EMILY DICKINSON WAS WRONG...

"Hope is the thing with feathers"
-Emily Dickinson

"It is difficult/to get the news from poems/
yet men die miserably every day/
for lack/ of what is found there."
- William Carlos Williams

What if Emily Dickinson was wrong...

and there were no feathers—
only accidental hollows holding hope interrupted,
hidden debris of bare wings, a bruised insufficiency?

Emily would have a lot to answer for in that case,
except poetry's sufficiency elides that whole
answer (dare I say hoped-for?) imperative

preferring, instead, to plume itself sometimes
in the hard raptures of reasonless flight, the
airy real estate of both poet and metaphor

that gives ground to the unsayable.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR **Connie Ralston '70** enjoys pursuing the nuanced art of the table tennis smash and European traveling. She is a retired editor and writer. **ARTWORK** *I'm a bird now, 2015* by Furman True Inspiration Artist in Residence **Janke Klompaker**

