

- 34 J. Ratzinger, 'Loi de l'Eglise et liberté du chrétien', *Service culturel de l'Ambassade de France près la Saint-Siège*, 24.11.1983. Ratzinger's account is indebted for its exegetical and theological foundations to D. Nestle, *Eleutheria. Studien zum Wesen der Freiheit bei den Griechen und im Neuen Testament* (Tübingen 1967), and to E. Coreth, 'Zur Problemgeschichte menschlicher Freiheit', *Zeitschrift für katholische Theologie* 94 (1972), pp. 258—289.

What is the weather like in Ethiopia?

Ian Richard Netton

In England
everything is white.
It seems that it has always been so:
as if the trees have worn
their garb of snow
from the first dawn of the Arctic light
to their smug self-possession now.

Everything is quiet.
A silence which has been exiled a long time
has returned
and gloating
over a forgotten crime
has disguised each bush and tree
more effectively
than the snow itself.

Do the snow and silence
make all things equal
like the primeval ice
which ruled before man
when, briefly,
the bushes wore ermine,
then froze and died?

The Ethiopian has sunshine,
bone-absorbed,
and the Westerner
can afford
a shiver.