

## MOTHER, MARBLE AND BELIEF

Shame is what mother believed in  
and strength of will.

She had no belief in forgiveness,  
no belief in love.

If pleased: surely an accident,  
not because someone had tried;  
if displeased: wilful,  
no good, a warped seed.

Character was to be carved  
and mother the sculptor--  
she chipped away, she chipped away.

If marble didn't cut  
the way she had planned,  
(a rigid, static composition), or  
if it cracked

it could be discarded,  
no blame upon herself.

She lived, she thought, without error  
and died because of physician's  
failure to find a cure.

Others failed, not mother.

Yet mother, with the tools you had  
you did the best you could.

Even as I,  
even as I.