

## Seven Sugar Cubes

*On 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1901, in Massachusetts, Dr. Duncan MacDougall set out to prove that the human soul had mass and was measurable. His findings concluded that the soul weighed 21 grams.*

When your mother phones to tell you that your father has died  
ten thousand miles away, visiting your emigrant brother,  
in a different hemisphere, in a different season,  
do you wonder if your father's soul will be forever left in summer?

Do you grapple  
with the journey home of the body of a man you have known  
since you were a body in your mother's body?

Does the news melt into you and cool to the image  
of his remains in a Tasmanian Blackwood coffin, in the body of a crate  
in the body of a plane? Or do you place the telephone receiver back on its cradle,  
take your car keys, drive the winter miles to your father's field, where you know  
his horses will run to the rattle, like dice, of seven sugar cubes.

Clodagh Beresford Dunne