



# Wild Gratitude

*Edward Hirsch*

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## **Wild Gratitude** Edward Hirsch

An excerpt from the poem, *Wild Gratitude*:

"Tonight when I knelt down next to our cat, Zooey,  
And put my fingers into her clean cat's mouth,  
And rubbed her swollen belly that will never know kittens,  
And watched her wriggle onto her side, pawing the air,  
And listened to her solemn little squeals of delight,  
I was thinking about the poet, Christopher Smart,  
Who wanted to kneel down and pray without ceasing  
In everyone of the splintered London streets,

And was locked away in the madhouse at St. Luke's  
With his sad religious mania, and his wild gratitude,  
And his grave prayers for the other lunatics,  
And his great love for his speckled cat, Jeoffry.  
All day today—August 13, 1983—I remembered how  
Christopher Smart blessed this same day in August, 1759,  
For its calm bravery and ordinary good conscience."

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