

Ecclesiastes 11:1

By Richard Wilbur (New Yorker, March 15, 2010)

We must *cast our bread*
Upon the waters, as the
Ancient preacher said,

Trusting that it may
Amplify be restored to us
After many a day.

That old metaphor,
Drawn from rice farming on the
River's flooded shore,

Helps us to believe
That it's no great sin to give,
Hoping to receive.

Therefore I shall throw
Broken bread, this sullen day,
Out across the snow,

Betting crust and crumb
That birds will gather, and that
One more spring will come.