

MEDITATION 7



A PARTICULARLY HYPNOTIC FORM OF religious chanted poetry is the litany, often sung by monks on special occasions. *Tē rogamus audi nos*, the monks chant, as long lists of saints are sung. Hear us, we beg you.

I think of the many men and women who have touched me during my years and who form a litany of names cherished and feared and fondly remembered. *Tē rogamus audi nos*. Hear me, my grandparents, who gave me so much of their hearts. Hear me, friends, who stayed with me in my most unconscious and unripe years. Hear me, my ancestors, whose written words and objects of art have educated me. Hear me, former loves, who feel my rejection and coldness.

Only a finite number of names can be in our litany, and so we sing to them as precious saints who have graced our lives.