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Reaffirmation

Peter Cowlam

Why yes, the pursuit ends here,
An outpost of urbanisation,
Where an iron bench and rain-streaked wall
Are the only topography.

Here our heir designate
Is no less solitary an individual
Than the last – unlikely guarantor
Of imperfectly understood beliefs.

These we do our best to recall –
A solemn paperwork
Under protection of an ancient
Representative, now throwing on

A long black coat, and anticipating
All these dark, funereal umbrellas.