

TWO POEMS BY PAT O'BRIEN

"They do not move
(for Pat Warde)

After the curtain fell
on the final production
of Samuel Beckett's
"Waiting For Godot"

the actor who played
who played Estragon
took the two boots
home as a memento.

Next morning he woke
to find to his shock that
the cursed boots
were a perfect fit.

Watching the Mountain
(for Breeda)

1. December 24th 1998

It wears a dark face.
Hard to imagine anyone
Going up or down.

2. December 25th 1998

Just look. Add nothing.
For nothing is added. Let
It find our wonder.

3. December 26th 1998

Winds scale past gale force.
The whole world seems to break.
The mountain stands still.

4. December 27th 1998

In the night snow fell.
Hard to find it now. Snow clouds.
Snow earth. Snow mountain.

5. December 28th 1998

Watch long enough and
Mists and clouds as they move show
What cannot be seen.

6. December 29th 1998

Just the peak. A fin
Cutting the surface of cloud.
Fear of the unknown.

7. December 30th 1998

At dawn the slow light
Moves down the slopes, a pilgrim
Known only when known.

8. December 31st 1998

Almost a full moon
Silhouettes the hill. They play
some air beyond me.