

JEFFREY TALMADGE

Nijmegen

I like that I'm in a small, clean room
in an old hotel;
that overlooking the Wall
where the river meets the hill,
what's left of what the Romans built
is standing still.

The castle didn't fall –
it was torn down and hauled
away, brick by brick
to build something else,
so that now its dispersed
through Nijmegen like smoke,
or better – like pieces
of the pyramids,
rewoven into the fabric
of the place.

Rain comes in nearly parallel
to the ground.
Wind whips through high trees
and around circular ruins,
carries the sounds of traffic
past what's left,
past what's coming.

Jeffrey Talmadge is a graduate of Duke University, The Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers, and the University of Texas School of Law. He is a full time musician and songwriter, recording for Corazong Records and touring in the United States and Europe.