

*Robert West*

**“A day . . .”**

A day  
like no  
other

like any  
other

Robert West

## **The New Preacher Levels with the Meek**

Now as for the earth you think you'll inherit,  
the present proprietors prefer not to share it—  
and by the time they and their kind are all dead,  
it won't be worth having.

Yes, I *know* what he said.

## After Martial

### 1. Maybe Then

You always say you will, but don't.  
Just once, you liar, say you won't!

(II.xxv)

### 2. Cheapskate

You sent half what I asked you to,  
    you there with cash to flaunt.  
Next time I deal with you  
    I'll ask for double what I want.

(IV.lxxvi)

### 3. Reply

I never send my books, it's true.  
Know why? You'd send me your books too.

(VII.iii)

Robert West

## **Lament for a Maker**

As honest critics all attest,  
his work is brilliant at its best,  
but (here the nicer voices soften)  
comes nowhere near its best too often.

## Heroic Couplet

“I’ve done some things I wish I could forget,”  
he said  
    as he unfixed his bayonet.

Robert West

## **Matthew 7:1-5**

When someone likes to crow “Your problem is . . . ,”  
odds are he doesn’t know he’s told you his.

**“A failing . . . ”**

A failing  
star

a faded  
scar

a three-  
quarter-time  
phrase

on  
a faraway  
guitar