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## **Empty City** *Michael E. Stone*

*"Go in and see the splendour and vastness of the building, as far as it is possible for your eyes to see it. (4 Ezra 10:55-56)*

*Cavafy wrote about a city,  
That follows you where you go,  
(Worn like a snail's shell).*

*When you walk in your city,  
You find empty squares,  
and hollow buildings echo.*

*Your footsteps sound,  
sound and resound.  
None other's.*

*No-one but you alone,  
Steps the silent streets,  
That spiral to the center.*

*A royal palace stands there,  
Many chambers full of  
empty, echoing space.*

*And in the round chamber,  
At the temple's heart,  
You may meet yourself,  
and Him.*