

Courage

You are the first to fall—knowing
there will be no rising—
come to rest upon the earth somewhere;
only then look back to see
if any of your comrades have appeared
to join the fray,
 and bury you.

Accept these lines as my salute.

We need so many drops of snow
before the blizzard can prevail.
What if each, too fearful of its fall,
just shrugged and asked: what difference
can one snowflake make?

Courageously you lead the way.

I'll pledge to spend my life
in this pursuit—for if
our blizzard fails its test,
let no one say it was
because Steve failed his best.

Steve Bloom
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