



PROJECT MUSE®

Hammered Dulcimer

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THE FALL

For Milton's Satan
heaven was a chill place,
too much already realized.

He had nothing to taste.
What he hadn't yet seen
seemed to him like real paradise.

Sometimes, beauty means
an ecstatic indifference
that freezes the heart.

It is cold. It is cold.
And it stays on its throne.
But you have to begin,
as a woman begins
when she turns from observing
the face of her youth

in a glass or a mirror—
the face she had once.
It's that turn to existence
when you stop thinking *Am I?*
or *Should I?* or *When?*
but instead, *I'm outside*
the cold dreaming of heaven.
I have fallen at last,
and you enter the world.