



PROJECT MUSE®

Hammered Dulcimer

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NEGATION

The self does not find itself in the long road.
The self does not find itself in the dimming sky.
The self does not find itself in the couple with the baby
who smile as if they know where, when, and why,
nor in the mountains rising heavily
like the bent backs of monks, indifferent and old,
nor in the ruddy vegetable garden
where a figure works quietly, at the center of the world.

What it is not seems to have no end.
A river of silence is all it contains,
winding and winding through mysterious forests.
Maybe it is better not to see what is missed,
to just float on the surface of billowing dusk
where distinguishing edges are melting like lovers
and the air turns a dense and improbable hue
softening, for a minute, the absence of an 'I' and a 'You.'