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## Hammered Dulcimer

Lisa Williams

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## CRATER

Old moon, old moon,  
what do I tell you?  
You sit there, scribed with night.

Do you expect invention?  
Beauty as its own reign  
or arrangement? No praise  
then, just this stutter  
between stare and star, the imprint  
of my heel on relative dark.

Fool moon, fool moon,  
what do you know  
of me or my crumbled ladders?

You're not a smile, or a grimace,  
you're not even a leap,  
just some bruited glow

that hangs from its one  
dichotomy. You can't figure  
the tunes, the variant

weights on a tongue.  
Poor moon, poor moon,  
what does your one eye mean?

To have half a sense,  
a cruel bright, your whole vision  
wandering, or dispersed

into clueless trinkets  
you can never collect.  
Won't you always be

swivelling? Bold mood, your flood  
is the flood of the mind  
in its black habit:

lighting all, but uplifted by none.  
Lantern of the odd soul,  
miner of discontent,  
don't come out, don't come out.  
Stay hidden, in my cold coat  
pocket.