Negation

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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, 
or 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.’