Search For A Common Language

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The Grain of Sand

—for Jim Harris & Hawk

There he goes, old hawk, he touches
the thermal, rises, lifts himself to dot
sky bending in a semicircle of blue heat.

The grey shimmer of mirage standing unbroken
until the strike

   down he drops knocking
a buck rabbit off his feet, flurry of dust,

rises again, talons blooded,
crippled rabbit hiding in the sage and brush
for coyotes to find:

   desert, crawling under heat,
slick glass sand tumbles in little avalanches and
the tarantula flashes back, her catch firmly
in her hairy mandibles. The quick awkward gait
of the Giant Desert Scorpion. His more deadly
kin, the strawcolored Durango, all cocked, waiting

as this desert sun goes down, as blue, grey
and pink spread themselves to silence and I hear
tiny feet and scales flee the hunting night.