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A Rented Planetarium

Clark Mill

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A RENTED PLANETARIUM

Look up, look up, *the speaker said,*
at Mother Earth amidst the spheres,
who has not stumbled, but instead
walks the slow centuries of years,

keeps to her own judicious path
between the darkness of the void
and the round pool of molten wrath
where she, and we, might be destroyed,

and in unmeasured time and space,
at the right moment, never fails
to occupy the proper place!
Down her parabola she sails,

and wheels her mountains and her seas
out of the shadow into light,
bringing with metronomic ease
the break of day, the fall of night.

We see the solar solitaires
move with a leisured impetus.
Unseen, our mother-planet carries
the burden of frenetic us.

*. . . And as his polished lenses grope,
sifting the flakes of nebulae,
the Martian at his telescope
suddenly calls a colleague: See,*

see, this is the one I meant,
spotted with green-gold, white and blue;
notice the leaf-shaped continent,
the well-marked polar ice-caps too;

with air and water, warmth and room
developing its latent powers,
we have good reason to assume
life is abundant there, and flowers.

CLARK MILL