

Aurora Australis

snow light settles in your steps
subtle traces on the breeze
whisper of ash remains
where fire lit the mountain's slopes

drapes of green seared clean
boulders hunch unfronded, waiting
out this eerie hush, drifts of birdsong
carry, from a valley, far away

in this hollowed moment, light shifts
pearl silver to the south, tall shapes
flit above the mountain's crown
born of wafts and shimmers
ethereal geometries gleaming
in their wake, soft-iced white

dreaming, wide awake, we lean
into wind-soft flurries
listen to lucent undertones
nature's supple mantle
rainbows curve around
our hearts, ephemeral arrays
brush emerald swathes across
Canopus, Jason's pilot summoned
from his mythic deeps, stellar
navigation steers this planet's hour
our land's smoke signal curls
around celestial rivers, yet cannot
wholly mask their glitter

fresh snow wisps fill outstretched palms
beneath our feet a quickening, Argo
cleaves her path along magenta waves
ghost-sails billow golden fleece, I watch you
watch the dip of her prow, how southern lights
kiss your cheeks and brow, your fingers
press their gentle message into mine, *this time,*
love, we'll make it through.