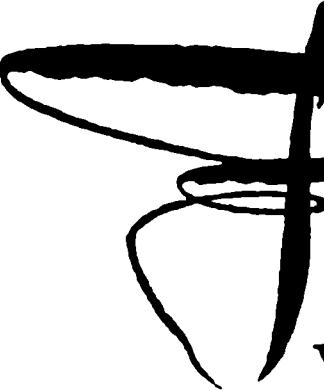


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(illustrating "Baby")

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Curved Universe

What if a star, half dead,
 Could meet its youth—
Blue-flamed, electric—hurtling toward the red
 Diminished matter that is now its truth?
 This bubble—space—
Could hold
 That mirror-trick of time, that face-to-face.
There was a heart pollened with April gold.
Let me not find it—now that I am old.

DORIS P. BUCK

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