A Hole In the Bucket

“With what shall I fix it?”–

O little stranger
little shorn off water
I feel my ocean breaking
in a cloud us has always been
rain even as mud herds it
a slowness that ghostburns
a slowness nearly craters
revolving in the sky

O doctor, astronomer
even Sappho’s words were
shorn from each other Tears
and lake are twin: orphans
draw a map on the chalkboard
how love blights the farms
between towns dust residences

Rain is not caused but carried
and sometimes the wheels roll themselves
away from a carriage, over cliffs
otherwise tender, otherwise geology

We root for us down inside the brackets
replicate moon by weeping
when a cloud spills overvalley
we are so away from moon so
we nurse the tide enough
to reflect it

Not our salt measures craters
revolving in sky, but somehow
water rises, like letters
arrange themselves into sentences
for a little shorn off ocean

The moon’s tattoo
will never glow
underneath the ocean in me
phosphorescence falling down
a Greek ladder on the moon’s back,

no horizontal rung beneath the πεφτο\(^1\)
how rain precedes its halo

Memory distills a pictogram
to sound, hears a face
in leaves falling off a tree,
light moves faster, reflecting
off eyelashes but voice
is no mirror it’s a cobbler,
tunnel waiting for wind

It seemed wrong to flood
the coming century with mournful
befores how worldfingers
begin while mine rehearse the end,
a minnow
in a cradle
where the ocean
won’t get buried Tide
never not
craves a moon
so mud lay down a lake
for tide to sleep in

O little stranger, there are carvers
slicing glow the sky
fells on a lake Moon
make cattails sway
help me fail kinder
map the pollen under water
with my tongue What proximity
makes it wet? This seriousness
is all too elegant wrongness
when our everybody you and sometimes heart
crawls under his fence
Nuzzle a twin and color
peel away from lumber
They are paint on the sidewalk and
shiny is how you smell
and nearly the forest behind it

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\(^1\) Pronunciation: Pefto. I mistook the Greek word for a ladder, simultaneously I fall and to fall