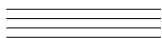


# W A N D E R L U S T S



H A I L E Y L E I T H A U S E R

Mercury

My vitreous planet, louche  
element, my wee dearest god;

Ruby-throat fevers  
clamber and plummet,  
upswing and summit, dive like a stone.

Reason abandons, abandons, abandons.

Youngblood goes Maying, sobbed grave to the bone.

Venus

Vesper-lit, as myrtle-hat virgins  
enchanted by sermons, limb by limb loosened,

not horny, but moral, till dawn-spun

underskin blossom, then O  
so vice-lovely, four-ace dice tumble.

Luna

Love is a mirror  
useless as prayer,

new as a storm sea,  
admired blindly.

## Mars

Men like their arts (as Venus her darts)  
and red is a Rubicon lust-deep and crossed  
reveling sun-tilt of helmets, their long pointy props –  
Sanguinous lads! Right-foot quick march!

## Jupiter

Jackhammer blather vexes the night –  
    upheaval's the patter, the  
        patter's the pater  
illuminatum, from tip-  
    top to bottom,  
extremum  
    rex.

## Saturn

Seven days, and one gets a season,  
albeit a bleak one, of sate.

At least

there's a torch in the tunnel,  
(urgent, rebutting), at least we can  
re-create yew-bright and roses  
nibbled by now to a crumb on the plate.

## Pluto

*Poof* – you're demoted. You are trash, you are  
looted. *Whoosh* – you are suckered, you're plucked  
up to your elbows, you're circling the farm.

Take a glance in the glass, kid, there's no one around;  
only heat rises, we're headed downtown.