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In the Days of the Fall of the Empire

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IN THE DAYS OF THE FALL OF THE EMPIRE

Comice pears poached in red wine with spices.
Suprêmes de volaille à brun.

Crusoe saves what is possible.
Wine & food: a composition.

Outside, the hide yurts & the babies
dead of kwashiorkor, of parental battering.

Madame, we will go down the river at 9 o'clock
under a studied midsummer sky: all blue, all blue,

& the music will be with us & we will live
only in the music, saying:

thus we feed something even to those who rot & drown.