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# From "Radiation in the Visible Spectrum"

Young Smith

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YOUNG SMITH

from *Radiation in the Visible Spectrum*

$h = 6.6262 \times 10^{-27}$  erg s  
— Max Planck

v.

The light is an artichoke  
built of glass,  
whose bladed leaves,

at first, seem clear  
and clean; yet as we  
peel the bracts

that cup its heart,  
each layer sheds  
a smoky gleam,

revealing, to the patient  
hand, scales of  
unimagined shades—

hazel, auburn, almond,  
bronze—until,  
deep in its first

glossy flesh,  
the light undresses  
its darkness.

VIII.

These are the allies  
of the light:

anemones  
marmosets  
gods carved from stone  
dragonflies  
hoarfrost  
the bells of trombones  
checkerboards  
jellyfish  
the craters of Neptune  
howitzers  
monstrances  
patent leather shoes

These are the enemies  
of the light:

foghorns  
photographs  
radial symmetry  
prisms  
parentheses  
the false glow of dreams  
yashmaks  
stopwatches  
heliostats  
firefighters  
parasols  
requiescats

XIX.

Here is the first continuity  
of light:

a boy  
on a hilltop  
throwing rocks  
at the sun.

And here is the final continuity  
of light:

a boy  
on a hilltop  
throwing his name  
at the sun.