Winter 1978

The Day the People's Bank & Trust Caught Fire on the Forty Second Floor & They Threw the Money Down in Cheap Bank Bags

Steve Harlow

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3 I might add that shell-pink and turquoise were also very prominent colors in fashionable clothes and jewelry of the '20s, suggesting the superficiality of color images. They are often merely decorative.

4 We should note that Williams seldom personifies nature. Rather, in "To a Solitary Disciple" he sees an "eaten moon"—an object capable of being humanly appropriated. The "lightness of the moon" is purely an imaginative quality, but corresponds to our ability to objectively perceive the weight of the "squat edifice"—again bringing the natural object within realm of human measurements and understanding without personifying.

5 Note that the time of the poem is early morning, the same "strange hour" that he keeps in "January Morning"—a time in which the moon can still be seen before it is erased by the broad daylight. The moment is therefore a fleeting one, despite the tendency of the poem to frame the moment and give it a permanent existence.

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Half way down their stuffed Brown bellies tore. Green feathers filled a Section of sky. Hundreds of wings without A body flying down into Smooth hands. Smooth bodies tearing on A sidewalk with green Feathers pasted to their Jagged skin like toilet tissue. —Steve Harlow