

*Wilderness House Literary Review 4/1*

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**Two-Sided Coin**

Despair has the shape  
of a Roman coin -  
brittle, with its image  
of an emperor rubbed down.  
Despair is the cavity  
of the doctor's eye  
when he delivers his  
R.I.P., A.S.A.P. speech.  
It is the diameter of a hole  
one finger makes  
to plant one seed  
in the desert sand...  
and it's the hope of  
that seed coiling.

The doctors point  
until they stare at the sun,  
saying, "Look!  
you are already burned.  
your shade lies below us."

Despair is the size of their sky.

What about faith  
on the other side of the coin?  
It's the size of a star.  
That giant star that looms  
in the heart and shines  
60,000 times the sun's magnitude;  
like Dench, in the mouth  
of the constellation swan.

After all, faith is  
jumping off of nothing  
and landing on something.

The body is bantam  
but the sky is unmapped.