

A Sonnet for the Bygone Earth

Jenny Xiong

Upon the moonlight sat two musing stars –
One young and blue – the other, giant, red –
From where they sat they saw the aging scars
Of Milky Way, its joys, the live and dead –
The older star turned to the blue – said I
Remember when the planet Mars was full
Of water, when the Earth was not yet dry –
Remember when the living had a pulse?
I do, the younger star replied – it was
Before they choked the Earth – before airbursts –
Before the nuclear winters came – because
Of what? a lust for power? hunger? thirst?
The two stars peered through atmospheres of glass –
Entire worlds destroyed – they sighed – at last –