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# Heaven

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ROY JACOBSTEIN

*Heaven*

*Poetry //*

*Exceeding music must take the place*

*Of empty heaven and its hymns*

—Wallace Stevens, “The Man with the Blue Guitar”

*Oui, mon ami*, a mean estate, devoid  
of Chuckles (the lemon, the lime).

No zoot-suited organist sluicing fear  
through Saturday Silents matinees,

no escaping that scrim of mute  
smiling Seraphim, no lush lutes

resounding across verdant buttes.  
Nothing save prayer prayer prayer.

Yet when we attend with our inner-  
most ear, we hear this plangent note:

the cry of the Earth’s latest neonate—  
that does suffice, that and the ineffable

joy we find in rhyming, say, *guitar*  
with *catarrh*, or *ouija* with *squeegee*.