

Silk with wool spun into fine damask
glass blown into new transparencies
compass abacus algebra sugar spice
opium jade hashisch paper ledgers
Indo-Arabic numerals and the zero

Lady Luck both muse and nemesis
blind Justice and one-eyed Injustice
to venture capital in Venice and Florence
their bankers Byzantine in some wise
but hardly Judaic much less Hebraic

Tyche's wheel up and down — the three
dependant gilded balls more common — Natura
with a mind to her munificent purse
naturing snake-eyes every so often
with hardly a by-your-leave for Caritas

Her sister-twin whose interests lay
less in instrumental procreation —
anatomy gender-roles sensual pleasure
sustaining biological life — than in
a passionate heart of desire for the eternal

Fortuna weeping from one eye winking the other
to all those ample figures in her retinue
those abstract ladies the songs keep alive
sloe- and bedroom-eyed infinitives
entered in columns with deft recursive strokes

Conspicuously absent from moral accounts
kept by more scrupulous merchant-bankers
their lines upgraded to strictly material goods
reasonably durable attractively priced
shelf lives yet to be determined