

Vapor trails in cloud chambers
celestial mechanics in a vial
 light bent around a trace of bodies
 where something or other probably was

Mass becoming energy
involving singularities
 becoming mass again at the fuzzy
 logics threshold of quantum equations

The shape of measuring devices
contingent on state of motion
 relative to coordinate systems
 or second body a first points to

Through curvatures of unmanned space
indeterminate locales
 uncertain constituencies
 white dwarves on the shoulders of giants

Inspiration intuition
narrative imagination
 escaping history via stories
 the turn to myth when reason fails

To get the emotions down in their fullness
strength and appropriate dignity
 without falsifying them
 through ambiguous mysteries —

trobar ric rather than *clos* —
obscurity more from vocabulary
 and allusion than *twisty thoughts*
 and their presentation within

the structure of classical linear
harmony, weights and measures
 proportional over time, values
 greater than the notes alone

can carry, a natural increase
gathering in the rests and stops
 an auditory transcendence

afforded by the polyphonic

verticality adding
resonance and counterpoint
to the simple melody
and moral at the end

To build again the eternal city
entire still in memory
whether it anywhere exist
now or ever is to be

Wandering islands of disparate races
improvising associations
stamping OUT-OF-DATE on sources
origins and principles

Wrong hero wrong hell
lares penates and father held close
against the suffocating press
of mindless dead and unborn

Acknowledging that there can be
no exactly truthful account
only tantalizing attempts
to transmit the feel of the thing

Mosaic patterns rising to the film
at the top of the melting pot *the epic*
farings of a literary mind
observed Miss Tricornered Hat