

This Urgency

Just before dawn the slim crescent moon
risen a few inches above the horizon
(a few closer than yesterday at this time)
and Venus, also falling, a like distance
over the moon, and Jupiter that same
space again over Venus (further apart
than they were last night), the three of them
in keeping with their apparent magnitudes
defining a line of ascending brightness descending

and then, alongside and just that length,
a similar distance to the south where I
just happen to be looking, disregarding
the business at hand: a shooting star,
west to east: a sign no doubt but of what,
I haven't a clue, unless it's the Leonid showers
due, according to the almanac,
at the height of their frequency in a few days,
and again that something for want of better word
we call beauty, blazing in and through the clockwork
happenstance this animal urgency
urges me to pay attention to.