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The Durations

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The Durations

With the swinging of the lines of the crescent moon
upturned, under the foot the Virgin shows
below her wooden, floor-length, sky-length robe,
and with the sound of fluttering inferred
by the travel of the crown-tailed fish
inside its kingdom in another, nearby room,
flickering an insoluble softness all these days
in a glass that carries always
the countenance of a sound that could be made
by something one could strike,
with the memory of a music that entered us,
and the sinking in the silence afterward,
signal of the durations,
your silence and absence have form.