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## Georgics of the Mind

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## Exercises in Translation

For me the broad wallop of swans just airborne  
means your exorbitance, forlorn as I was  
by both beside the lake: wings above me  
too far to reach, and you beyond belief,  
incomparably idiotic. I tried  
my arm around you, tried against with thinnest  
membranes, even tried inside as far as fit,  
but always the metaphysical  
poverty of a preposition. Pity  
my ancient folly, learnt from the Greek,  
where longing takes the name of *Leda*  
pressing improvidently into perfect  
strangeness. Alack! the more I grasp at you  
the more I want your beautiful remainder.