

## The Moon from Paysandú

The moon from Paysandú  
Hasn't got a man on it; it's got  
A woman and a donkey  
Because you're looking at it  
From the other side

Try as you might, you cannot  
Turn or squint or flip or lie on your back  
And see  
Anything else  
Anything you're used to

Just the Virgin Mary  
Pregnant, riding to Bethlehem  
Aware but not fully  
Fathoming  
The importance of what is soon to take place

—Patrick Madden

This poem won an honorable mention in the BYU  
Studies 1999 poetry contest.