

Niklas Salmi

To T. E. Hulme in Heaven

Spring is stirring
a darkness so dense
we're no longer able to see
through the canopy—

as if we were looking at
a golden coin contre-jour,
and can only fathom
its phantom form.

Heaven on earth, I hear you sneer.
But just then, through a small
miracle, the path widens
into a glade of horse chestnut.

Like Cimmerians lost
in the Elysian fields, we blink
at the panicle torches,
lit extravagantly at noon,

and suddenly the coin
seems fair again.

Editor's Note: T. E. Hulme's fine essay 'Romanticism and Classicism', first published in 1924, provides an interesting corrective to what Hulme regarded as the over-prevalance of Romanticism at the time of the essay's writing.