

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.