



UNIVERSE REWOUND

He's fed up.  
He's had enough.  
He has stopped the universe  
and pushed rewind.  
And the universe begins to contract.

Clocks run backwards, faster, faster.  
Lincoln rises from an ancient grave.  
Founding fathers are middle aged,  
now young adults, now children –  
infants crawling back to dark wombs.

Columbus sails backwards to Spain.  
The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is  
an uninspired field of egg-shell white.  
The tower at Pisa straightens and is quickly unbuilt.  
London has only wooden buildings.

Julius Caesar has breakfast then goes back to bed.  
John the Baptist unwashes his face.  
Noah is a child playing with a toy boat.  
Adam is alone in the garden. Then he is gone  
and the garden and all the land is desolate.

Continents coalesce and are swallowed by the sea.  
No day, no night – and in the gray twilight  
stars start winking out.  
The universe rushes in and  
there is no yesterday.

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