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Previsions of a Mandarin Mode

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Capozzi: Provisions of a Mandarin Mode

PREVISIONS OF A MANDARIN MODE

James Capozzi

What of the fun in merely doing
something, among trees spaced
and raised per Greek mathematic?
They conceived a copse or colonnade
in aid of gold ideas: hermetic
no doubt, hon, but not without flickering

crooks left half-lit by bonfire.
In that half-dark your mind may thrive
despite itself, raise thoughts like ducts
across the night, a deep indoors approaching night.
You aren't overly free of an antler raving
out of sight
cold stone that was your father.

This isn't all so long ago.
I've got a couple of feelings I had even
back then, a way the common streets begin
moving to raise you up a step, a way all
things figure only on your pure arrival.
Semi-menaced. Absolutely poured into

a night you and Thales knew did not set
out to scatter you: to animal
brambles, to bloody dens, but would settle
instead for a small shrinking of the mind
by its own memories. Like this river rhymes
the street beside it
chancing the bare distance.