

Post-normal Science Survives the Catastrophe¹
for Silvio, a late gift for his 70th Birthday

The rough beasts crash and lumber,
their scales flashing brilliant in the falling
sun. When they swing their great heads,
this way, and that,
scanning for danger,
we still ourselves.
We are but notions
beavering into shadows,
biding time,
too small to merit
even their disdain.

They rise up, fiercely tall and stupid,
then slouch off toward Washington,
Jerusalem, Beijing, Berlin, and Moscow,
claiming for themselves,
this devastated paradise,
raging at the meteoric gods.

We flee from the Jurassic
chaos into tunnels
of imagined spring.
Huddled, nibbling
ideas, shoots and leaves,
we sip our wine,
and craft a plan:
first we take New Mexico.
Then we take our time.

¹ *Kimbetopsalis simmonsae* was a small, herbivorous, beaver-like mammal that survived the event that led to the extinction of the dinosaurs. Its fossil was found in what is today New Mexico.