On Inhabiting an Orange



By Josephine Miles

All our roads go nowhere.

Maps are curled

To keep the pavement definitely

On the world.

All our footsteps, set to make Metric advance, Lapse into arcs in deference To circumstance.

All our journeys nearing Space
Skirt it with care,
Shying at the distances
Present in air.

Blithely travel-stained and worn,
Erect and sure,
All our travels go forth,
Making down the roads of Earth
Endless detour.

Josephine Miles, "On Inhabiting an Orange" from *Collected Poems*. Copyright • 1983 by Josephine Miles. Reprinted with the permission of the University of Illinois Press. Source: Collected Poems 1930-83 (1983)