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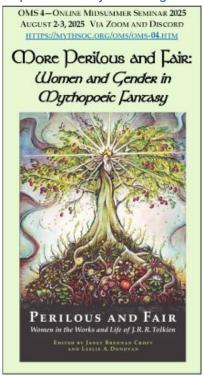
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West of the Moon
by Elizabeth Scott Tervo

West of the Moon Saint Philip holds a church: small, snug, and still
heavy as Ethiopian stone but light in his painted hands
resting on itself instead. Our ship holds us,
riding high in orbit, resting on itself in the drag of rare particles,

bringing words like castles, strong words, approaching words
and making itself into a chapel: the catwalk a colonnade,
the exhaust funnel, a bell tower tinkling with ions.
We are in our boat, the nave, and if we must meet our end,

what better place for us to die
than between the narthex and the altar
Leaving the earth's corona

the pilot's seat becomes a bishop's throne
a visiting bishop, a friendly bishop, with adamantine eyes
surely steering through the dust of countless wings
his lodestar a city smashed, a twilight rubble
            where one monk keeps his vigil of stability.