

8-5-2023

## West of the Moon

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### Recommended Citation

Tervo, Elizabeth Scott (2023) "West of the Moon," *The Mythic Circle*: Vol. 2023: Iss. 45, Article 22.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mcircle/vol2023/iss45/22>

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## Online MidSummer Seminar 2025

### More Perilous and Fair: Women and Gender in Mythopoeic Fantasy

August 2-5, 2024

Via Zoom and Discord

<https://www.mythsoc.org/oms/oms-04.htm>



## West of the Moon

### Additional Keywords

Mythic Circle, Mythopoeia, Dragons, Fantasy, Fiction, Poetry

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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 adamantite 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.