

Marathon Cycle
(For Rebecca On Her Fifteenth Birthday)

Fifteen sixty-four
Michelangelo dead
Galileo born

I menstruated

Sixteen ten
Venus
Sickle shaped like Leo
Rose close into my spy glass
Zinc white on the edge of an eyeball
Highlight on a falling apple
Discovery
Impact of an apple on the ground
Large when close and crescent
Small and round on the other side of the sun
Full disc
One must stand back from the picture
To see the whole

I married
I bore

Sixteen twelve
Sun spots
Ivory black pupil smudged
Rotted apple blurred on the yellow grass
Swam across the surface of the sun
Sun disease
Some survived a full rotation
Discovery
Violent processes at work

Broke through my spy glass
Siderius Nuncius
Erupted on the surface of my eyeball
Panoramic ceiling vision
Complete
For now
Slid back down the long smooth tube of gravity
Man's relation to the universe
Known like this to no person
Before

Menopause

Sistine forty-two
Galileo closed his eyes
Yielded the torch

Newton born