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Lines on Reading James Joyce's story "The Mother"

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Lines on Reading James Joyce's story "The Mother"

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Joyce's lines struck me.

"She respected her husband in the same way as she respected the General Post Office, as something large, secure and fixed; and though she knew the small number of his talents she appreciated his abstract value as a male."

Men have abstract value

as fathers, husbands, bosses.

Men range tall, large, secure

and fixed.

Their gazes fix

on their mothers, daughters, sisters.

Some men loom over their women

their small talents looming large

while their women work the loom

musing.

Women, thank Gaia, muse.

Muses are mothers
with large concrete talents.
They inspire men
who can not muse.

Inspire my muse, Mother Gaia.
Mother me, bemusingly.
Concretize that maleabstraction
into small fluid pools of wisdom.

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