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Stargazer's Diptych

I.

Sidereal seafarers, celestial sojourners
Weaving through waves, whistling alongside
Birds breaking above, our bravery wavering
But eagerly Eastward, like eagles we flew
The stars were still with us, stalwart and trustworthy
Tracing their trails, we traversed through the night
Rising and reaching, roaming the heavens those
Pinpricks made pathways, pointing our way
A rosebloom of radiance, writing our destinies
Knowing their names, we knew where to sail
For Pur find Polaris, then Pleiades follow
It setting in solitude, somberly vanishing
As stars astride heaven, asterisms we followed
Their rising realigning, our rafts and canoes
We held up our hands, the horizon beyond them
And followed our fingers, forging ahead
But as seasons slip by, stars change their habits
As rains ravage Meliel, rightly old Antares
Ambles with Aquilae, away from Polaris
And fools follow blindly, falling from true
So listen and learn from me, lest you sail stray
Remember their meanings, messages from heaven
Allow them to lead you to lands of new birth

II.

Following stars with fictional stories
Romantic ideas of roaming ancestors
Pity the Polynesians, puffed with importance
Wanting a past, without much proof
Oral traditions can omit additions
Weakening stories of wonderful stargazing
A lack of cartography, lessening testimony
Why ought we believe what we cannot perceive
No memorization nor triangulation
Are kept in the senses of keen island sailors
As much as they might be moved to make claim
A voyage needs tables to venture for atolls
No cloudy reflections or rippling currents

Flying seabirds or fish strangely swimming
Nothing but science is noble for sailors
Finally, Spaniards far reaching sailed
Gifts then were given, granting new pathways
No matter how much they mutter and mumble:
Save for a sextant the sailors were stranded
Tools of geographers, taken ungraciously
Turned to the heavens, transcending heathenry
Civilization the subject of nations
Marked by the method of assessing the azimuth