

*Stephanie Strickland*

### **Her Mathematics**

Moonmonths synchronized with solar years,  
cycle-paths aligned, the Zodiac belt—

pebbles for patterns, for lattice-logic looms;  
our lettuce-leaf-, our reef-hyperbolica, these we crochet.

The overhang, never to forget. To remember how with fire  
we lost night—we who perjured dark,

cursed the cold. Now winter's lost. (*Fire became the stake.*)  
Each day we ask, will new body-brain emerge?

But whose? How stowed? A portal mind? A gated  
world. We learn to diffract

restrictions super-imposed by the surgeons of light.  
Realities, we re-create daily,

moonshine rules. Many-fingered time has come back  
to our dock. Its twisted braid, enacting Morwen's

coded knots, stops : awestruck before Maryam's  
incomparable openings of body—

*Maryam Mirzakhani, 1977-2017*

—a slightly different version appeared in *Touch the Donkey*, 2018