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Are you a Listener?

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ARE YOU A LISTENER? by Sara Ann Alexander

SIRT-1,

the assertive one,

looks like a sun with orbiting

neuro-responsibility,

stress resistance,

and insulin sensitivity.

Similarly, the sun hits my skin

and it's back again:

unwelcome warmth

in the course—

fingers turn blue

while they trace routes of Neptune,

now the furthest planet away,

the only one Johann Galle did not see first.

He projected his feelings

on a plane,

played with instruments,

knowing the distance

and other planets in the way.

A stray orbit of Uranus told him

to look in the telescope, then

named the blue transgressor

after the Roman God of the Sea.

Lesser known omens

cling to cope

and flits of hope

drown and swallow

harrowing pleas.

SIRT-1 failed my energy,
dimmed stars
in my sky.
Mitochondrial orbits
as big as a cell—
the nuclear core bits a dysfunctional hell,
enzyme function that cannot tell
why the lie is better than
stifled reality.
I'm more like Maria
than you could ever see,
and I take my own great exceptions to ill hours.

Who else is out there?
Shakespeare, you can leave
unless you too are a listener—
scour the sky until fate's here
and we all die,
that signature move of the poet
or who he claimed to be.