

## THE BERING BRIDGE

The old men say  
the sky was once so close  
that if you shot an arrow up  
it would bounce back at you. The sky  
swallowed birds. Sometimes it lay  
like the luxuriating fog  
just above our tents  
and a man could climb  
to the opening at the top, where the smoke went out  
and talk to the gods.  
Then the redwoods came, sacrificing  
all to the main trunk, and  
they jacked up the sky,  
and then men with balloons and telescopes  
pushed it back further,  
so it became difficult to talk straight to the gods,  
one had to yell, or use the intercession of shamans.  
Now I have flown myself across the Pacific,  
seen the deep sky blue at 30,000 ft.  
They say a man has walked on the moon. They  
say the earth is getting warmer.  
I see smog, the sky coming back down over California.