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## On the Grounds of Sanctuary

Gregory J. Hobbs

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## On the Grounds of Sanctuary

**ON THE GROUNDS OF SANCTUARY**

Waiting standby  
for the evening flight to Telluride  
sheets of rain  
rolling hail

lightning cracks  
a sudden heap of sudden slick  
to the grounded runway take-off paths  
of held-up D.I.A.

I see the air's an awesome roil  
I see the Captain's lounging-in  
a standby wheel chair  
I see the slickered Baggage Guy

weighing out the possibilities  
how many get to go—  
"Mr. Hobbs is called to board"—  
the Great Lakes evening flight to Telluride

angry rifts of angry air  
dots within a shaky metal tunnel  
we rumble lift and spiral through  
arise fly-up and sneak on over

the booming Great Divide  
Sneffels on the left  
San Miguel beneath  
our Captain's bearing down

a slotted red-walled canyon  
running full and whirring white  
Captain's got his handle on  
the throttle of our throats

thank God our props are turning  
mountain towers pen us to  
on the grounds of sanctuary  
we're heading in for Telluride.