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## Attic Shade

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## Attic Shade

*Lo Lei*

It is locked in the attic reinforced by three layers of oak  
In the image of man but of barbaric darkness  
Muscles taut and heavy with pounding footsteps,  
Thumps short and brief causing dust to fall from above.  
Whenever I visited the locks, I could feel it, lingering above  
When I walked away, it would begin clawing at the hatch  
Pull after failed pull, it slammed the floor and jumped furiously wall to  
wall

Banging the walls with both fists.  
It roared as if threatening to kill,  
A sharp note in its climax that grilled my ears  
When I feed it from the window I hear it garbling its grub  
Always hobbling away from the light, away from the wind  
I doubted it ever wanted to be free since it shied from the window.

It dawned upon me one day when I opened the door  
As the banging shook the entire house, that it wanted me.  
Yet I kept it, civilly, for all my father's will and my father's father  
(And his father, too) Of whom they communally addressed "Friend in the  
Attic"

It has to be as old as sin  
That or ageless, within its cursed den.  
Never satisfied, always howling inviting nightmares to my eyelids  
When I shrink away to my room in the corner to shake its quaking  
madness.