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Dépaysement

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Dépaysement

David Holper

Barbara Curriel Multilingual
Award Winner

After the plane lands
or the ship docks
or the train has carried you
over a border
in the dead of night,
you may find yourself
waking early, strolling along
a strange avenue, noticing

how the light settles
differently here than the angle
you never noticed at home. Or perhaps
the coffee tastes like memory. Or just maybe,
when the sycamore leaves fall, they drift
earthwards as if the earth
called them by a new name.

Dépaysement (French, noun): the feeling one gets
of not being in one's own country, of being a foreigner.

