

# Toyon Literary Magazine

---

Volume 67  
Issue 1 *De Dos Lados*

Article 10

---

2021

## Latin Mass

Claire Hsu Accomando  
*Southwestern College, Chula Vista, CA*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/toyon>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Accomando, Claire Hsu (2021) "Latin Mass," *Toyon Literary Magazine*: Vol. 67 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/toyon/vol67/iss1/10>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Toyon Literary Magazine by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University. For more information, please contact [kyle.morgan@humboldt.edu](mailto:kyle.morgan@humboldt.edu).

## Latin Mass

Claire Hsu Accomando

Standing in line  
at Starbucks on Ring  
Zhong Road, Beijing.

Years ago on a Sunday morning  
I would have been in church, kneeling  
comforted by the Latin mass.

In Istanbul, Nairobi, Paris or Kabul  
with no knowledge of the language—  
the heavy door pushed open  
I was home.

Votive flames in crimson glasses.  
*Dóminus Vobiscum.*  
Voices sang back, *Et cum spírítu tuo.*  
Now priests speak Turkish, Swahili  
French or Pashto.

No Credo, no Agnus Dei  
to let me know things  
are in order in my heart, my head  
the whole mundi.

In line at Starbucks. My turn  
to order, I point to a number.  
The Chinese woman in forest green asks

*Caffè?*  
*Latte?*  
*Grande?*

*Amen, I say. Amen.*