

Conquistadors

In this afterthought
 he's just turned six,
 the astronaut in him

doing his damndest to coincide
 the moon landing
 with his first kiss,

hoping to *plant* his lips
 on -----'s
 distant face

as Simon Armstrong
 steps from the module
 onto Tranquillity Base.

But as Tricky Dicky clears his throat
 to claim God's estate
 as man's backyard

from the Oval Office,
 and the gap narrows
 to feet then inches,

suddenly stars recoil
 to further dimensions
 and heaven flinches.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the first crewed moon landing
by astronauts from the Apollo 11 spaceflight on the 20th July, 1969, the
first known interplanetary journey by any life form in the universe.

Simon Armitage