

## Hope

Here is my lovely sign of hope.  
It will sound impossible, but bear with me.  
It is everywhere, but you will not find it  
by looking at any particular place.  
It is far from you but also close,  
as close as you are to yourself.  
It is not on the map, and you will  
not find it by digging, nor by sending  
up balloons to assay the sky.  
It is nowhere but everywhere, yet  
in each place you can find the whole of it.  
All this, because it is not a location  
but a direction. It is not a place you  
can claim but a way to look.

You must not hide your shadow behind you  
but throw it down before. Then,  
stay still, focus on infinity,  
and look in a particular direction.  
And suddenly there it is,  
layer on layer in all its colours  
as luminous as if it were refreshed  
just that instant, replenished  
again with fullness of arching light  
breaking out of the water.

In certain dry seasons you will see nothing.  
But by faith and reason working together,  
you can reconstruct the possibility,  
which will be real enough,  
if once you have seen it before.

— *Andrew Steane*