

## **Upon Returning from a Trip to Peru**

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A reverent gerbil is rolling his purple gerbil ball  
Up an inclined ramp  
Outside the home of a man  
Who has been confined to a wheelchair since 1992.  
Inside the purple sphere is a radio  
With its knobs permanently set  
To announce the rigid gospel of tourism;  
A well-intentioned tribute to the art of sightseeing.  
What do you know about the taste of spring water,  
Siphoned from the foot of a mountain?  
Demands the man through his front window.  
The gerbil has no rebuke, and retreats  
Inside his translucent sphere.  
What do you know about the soft burning of a star  
Plucked from the hanging branch of a pear tree?