

**Donna Pucciani**

**Subjunctive, Italian**

*Penso che nevichi~*

I think it is snowing.

*Penso che* the moon is hidden tonight.

I think that love is forever~

*penso che l'amore sia sempre.*

*Spero che~*I hope that

you find your dog who has wandered off

in search of adventure, wagging

and leaping outside the post office.

*Spero che* your father dies quickly, mercifully,

in his sleep. *Spero che* bombs over the desert

kill no children today.

*Dubito che~*I doubt~that God exists.

The mother of all doubt, an agnostic's holiday.

Or that I exist, a skeptic's manifest

for all who sail the ocean of uncertainty.

The past is a dream,

the present a breath of flesh and bone,

the future a void.

I glance at the sky: *Penso che nevichi.*

I think it might snow.

*Spero che* the children of the world

may have full bellies today.

*Dubito che~*I doubt the rich

might part with their coins to make it so.

*Basta che~*it is enough

that we awoke together this morning.

Put on your coat,

and we'll go walking in the night.

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Donna Pucciani lives in Wheaton, Illinois.