

**On Seeing the Galilean Moons**  
(In Dialogue with “Tür Zum Nichts,” by Louis Armand)

Bernard Cohen

The thing moving is a knee, and that snare  
fabric, syncopated, delay pedal,  
slow ear, hallway blown with  
last night’s discoloured ideas,  
w(h)isping: let go if you love us—but  
how, when they stick like melting chocolate—

in this room which includes  
stars in the sky, impatient gravity  
rain driving me inside  
following through cracks  
soundtrack on the tin roof  
engineered by crows’ feet

somehow in my head I navigate  
the fissure, tracking raindrops  
up and back, I am in a moment  
of un-doing—how did time start  
with no motor and no key—at the overlap  
of infinity and nothingness.

**Bernard Cohen** is an Australian writer, the author of five novels, a book of short stories and a children’s picture book. *The Blindman’s Hat* won the Australian/Vogel Literary Award in 1996. Cohen’s fifth novel, *The Antibibliography of Robert F Menzies*, won the inaugural Russell Prize for Humour Writing. Cohen’s short stories have been widely anthologised, including in the *Penguin Century of Australian Stories*, *Best Australian Stories 2002 and 2009* and *Picador New Writing*. His first collection of short stories, *When I Saw the Animal*, was published in 2018.