

the little  
shed  
of various  
lamps

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*for Emily*



'The other night dear, as I lay sleeping  
I dreamed I held you in my arms  
But when I awoke, dear, I was mistaken  
So I hung my head and I cried.'

— 'You Are My Sunshine'



The house, these days, so much someone else's.

In a little shed of various lamps  
I am trying to live with lightness,  
an attitude of seams

spacing  
this ground  
and all manner of convergences

In 1814 Joseph von Fraunhofer invented the spectroscope and discovered gaps in the rainbow, the light of missing colours, although he was better known for creating the world's finest optical glass and precise methods for measuring dispersion. An orphan by the age of 11, Joseph von Fraunhofer began his career as an apprentice glassmaker. In 1801 the workshop in which he was working collapsed and Joseph von Fraunhofer was buried in rubble. Lungs weakened by years of working without adequate ventilation in close proximity to heavy metal vapours he could not see, Joseph von Fraunhofer died in 1826 at the age of 39.

Dark energy is a  
more modern way  
of filling in the blanks.

In other words, dark energy is nothing less than the cost of having empty space. The way things are is the way they were when light left them and the present is the experience of light's past.

In a bus on your way home early from work when the whole ground shook and the 57 metre cathedral spire fell on the bus you were travelling home in killing all passengers including you.

I have no idea what it is to die like that, but I do know how a temblor is a sudden release of energy.

You live in the closing of an eye.

Your magnitude was 6.5. Geological and geomorphological conditions were such that wave propagation was amplified and ground acceleration increased, although it seems that the fundamental problem was that your earthquake did not run deep. This, strangely, is called a 'shallow focus'. The ground broke almost directly underneath you. Soil liquefaction occurs when saturated granular material temporarily loses its strength and changes from a solid to a liquid. Under such circumstances rigid structures such as bridges, town halls and cathedrals may lose their footing and sink into the liquefied deposits, often resulting in that structure's collapse.

Masonry collapse was widespread.

Afterwards, a flag was flown at half-mast.



In 1669 the German Hennig Brand discovered the element, phosphorus.

Phosphorus, from the Latin, *phos* and *phoros*, meaning 'morning star' or 'light bearer'.

Brand first obtained phosphorus from human urine. Attempting alchemy through the distillation of salts by evaporating urine Brand produced a white material that glowed in the dark and that burned brilliantly.

Later Brand sold the recipe for 200 thalers to D Krafft of Dresden.

In his youth Brand may have been an apprentice glass-maker.

Does the inertia of a body depend upon its energy-content?

Dark energy is hypothetical but even so it fills all space and increases the rate at which the universe expands. In the standard model of big bang cosmology dark energy accounts for 73% of the total mass-energy equivalence of the universe. All ground has the potential to open up and it is not possible to remove mass without moving energy.

It is possible to measure the expansion history of the universe by observing the relationship between the distance of an object and its redshift. Measuring redshift is relatively straightforward, although quantifying the distance to an object is more difficult. Commonly, astronomers use 'standard candles': objects, such as the consistently clear type Ia supernovae, for which the intrinsic brightness is known.

I am trying to talk about your body.

So I light the lamps with bulbs of different wattage as counterpoint and challenge.

It's easy to sell the idea of something you can't see: you just tell people what it can do and sound like you mean it. You may well mean it.

A hundred lit lamps only add to the allure.



In Venice steps led us out of the way  
to where furniture  
remarked centuries turning  
and empires of florins

a flock of birds  
threshing tinder  
and our hands  
peaked as envelope  
folding resolutely  
just as the consequence  
of body is change

I listened, a way of waiting, turned toward the  
world, the first buds, behind me and ahead.

Some days later, in Dimaro, mid-morning, we walked  
into the foothills of the nearest mountain, larger peaks  
all around us, but distant in the heat, and elsewhere.

Having stumbled across a seemingly  
abandoned village built only one or two  
decades previously, and before turning up an  
unmarked path half overgrown with thistle  
and grass, an elderly gentleman cycled past,  
one of his hands in his pockets.

I left a coat behind, your songs, your noises,  
the light of lamps.

here no deluge as of nowhere to speak of nor collecting but  
what going out the difference of not this and a body parts  
company to flout issue for the sake of worldly exception.  
Helm stuck of it howling oars back waves blanch and not  
there live