

## formations

1.

beyond the blind  
one looks past  
a chaos of stars,  
more territory than  
small words can contain.

outside our lives, our  
galaxy, galaxies  
far enough apart  
that force of gravity is  
not enough to prevent  
how the universe expands

in spite of how one clings, and  
clings to notions of  
the finite, the fixed

and predictable. the distance is  
measured annually, increasing  
distance, there to here:

the magnitude of change  
can only be spoken in  
language approaching the scale and  
the structure of a world

worlds apart, once one  
stands apart.

2.

given the nature  
of time, the difficulty  
in penetrating clouds of  
interplanetary, interstellar  
intergalactic dust and  
debris from exploded stars,  
it is difficult to be certain of much.

and impossible  
to imagine anything  
without edges. one needs  
to take hold; one holds

belief in the fundamental  
one word beginning  
universe, the fractured  
evidence in light of.

what's evident means more  
than one thing; what's gathered  
depends on names for  
what one can find out  
from a shadow cast.

lacking complete  
explanation, one invents  
invisible stars, dark companions  
of suns, or  
particles whose discovery will  
balance things,  
satisfy the rules  
made so far.

3.

the main thing is structure:  
try to detect  
the logic of the apparent

world, a system, nothing more;  
a word in common  
used to measure  
the finite

and the infinite.  
does one discover  
or invent  
what turns out to be  
a map of disorder and

wandering planets  
turn out to be  
dreams, more than one  
imagines, some in  
clusters scatter  
in keeping with constant  
laws, the remnant  
some long ago

construct.

4.

so limits are  
set to what is  
incomprehensible, the sum of  
what's observed far beyond  
the scope of language, entire  
worlds are circumscribed

by simple equations. one  
movement balances another;  
each line proves step by step

each line, the changes  
logical. this is what  
will happen; on the other hand  
what may take place is

non-fundamental. such a thing as  
turbulence, how water flows  
has to do with the wild and  
the unpredictable, as in

human behaviour:  
chaos

the onset possible  
following apparent fluctuations  
in the gravitational force

of a single electron  
somehow perturbed  
at the observable edge  
of the universe.

or so the story goes.

5.

one can never tell  
what the story  
will become, coming  
face to face with chaos

*[ two bodies can begin  
identical lives. one may  
orbit jupiter, say, as expected*

*from what we know. the other  
may suffer from some inability  
to compromise, or  
become hypersensitive to chance*

*resonance; the laws predict  
that one's orbit turns  
erratic, so one embarks  
on an earth-crossing excursion and  
ignites ],*

coming up against

resistance, the safety of  
atmosphere, so called

*falling star.*

6.

or  
a star evolves.

some matters grow complex,  
heavy at the heart  
and things add up to

collapse.  
sudden. explosive.

inside moves to  
edge, a shell  
incandescent around  
nucleus of passion

more light than  
entire galaxies  
the light, a pulse  
detected and recorded

on observatory walls.  
the sunlight  
finds once every year

this cipher of what went  
lost somewhere near  
the confusion limit

maybe

ten thousand years  
before and before  
writing with paint on stone  
that star marked out  
the confusion limit.

7.

must reconstruct what  
must have happened;  
the past is the perfect

archaeology of the irreversible.  
things had to start

somewhere.  
question, what matters  
condensed into some world.

one can reconstruct and not know which  
turn taken placed things as they are,  
here, present.

and with new evidence, a new theory;  
a change in attitude, for example,  
depends on a single human being's

insight, observing, accidentally  
at the right time

so that star becomes the centre of things  
and worlds

grow more complex, more than one can  
grasp in common  
knowledge. some resist  
the expanding universe.

8.

or where, for instance  
one is shown the possible  
annihilation

possible and

no remnant to reconstruct  
what likely meaning  
to a pulse of light  
from a pulse of light's  
explosion.

the evidence filters through  
how far things  
can go. wrong.

what dangers  
lie, lie inside  
the confusion, the time

limit.

9.

nebulous, the makings of  
a planet, one life, a  
consciousness driven  
to know something beyond  
any doubt. reveal. set limits;

a science, based on  
manipulating the paths of  
projectiles. one invents

gunpowder, telescopes;  
the universe enlarges,  
complicated by discovery of  
radio waves and  
nuclear fission.

one clings to belief in  
balance and symmetry  
in the face of  
how quickly things change;  
one imagines one is

not alone.

10.

the next findings lie  
in a physicist's dream:  
enough power to smash  
protons, then methodical  
sifting the debris

for evidence of  
the one particle, the one  
grain of truth to  
close the universe

or a god's ultimate  
answer for everything that's  
come to light.

as finally,  
what we know is  
how to destroy  
all we know

11.

under cover of darkness  
one imagines escape velocity,  
away, past the nebulous  
traces of what once was

sanctuary.

one looks back on  
a surface of unspoken  
dreams, a grammar of  
feeling, the turbulence  
one wakes to

in the volatile arms  
of some spiral galaxy  
an exploded planet  
may account for  
the missing ten words in  
songs to draw out  
the limits of daylight.

difficult to accept  
the idea of black,  
the black hole, the constant  
falling into what we have  
no words for.

one wants shelter, something  
to run to.

12.

so one makes a mark.  
is moved to make a mark, and  
place another next to it.  
and so on. in various combinations

until it is evident that  
something is meant, something

and a system is devised. this stands  
for that. again, one faces  
the limits of imagination;

how invent more than what one knows, how  
escape the gravity of tradition.  
what's repeated, repeatedly given  
importance provides structure.

13.

and out of the conventional  
notions about the linear

flow of things one fabricates  
a set of signal images  
to be sent in certain directions

at certain frequencies  
outlining how many times:  
the dna molecule, the aracebo dish,  
the beings on this planet, the planet  
in relation to some star, some  
cluster of stars, finally  
a matrix forms  
from the product of two  
prime numbers,  
assuming

ten thousand light years  
into the future supposedly  
advanced maybe decaying  
civilization will recognize

a sign of life, intelligent  
life, intelligence measured by  
ability to manipulate

silence. an entire life  
riding on one  
word from another.

yes.

14.

between lines the words may make visible  
some indication of what past  
might come to be found buried

or what future of collapse: new galaxy,  
a planet, some kind of life

or so one imagines. the limits are  
written on the surface of things;  
what appears, based on a true story, is  
outlined by dug-up bones and  
abstract fictions.

the evidence points to this or to that.  
and those who derive rules, mathematical  
proof how stars form, how  
some die

can say only what's expected, what can  
be expected:

model behavior models. a parallel,  
down to earth metaphor telescopes  
small in light of  
forces at large, solar rhythms and  
all these uncovered skeletons of  
the lives one invents.