

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.