From the Background

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Acknowledgments

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the idea is simple: assume the sky is flat.

assume you can only be as empty as nothing.

assume timescales will keep your data warm and well-defined.

assume you will keep living in calculated terms:
the weight of minute lays
traceless shadows last scattered
across the surface of a sphere.

assume you now strain to demonstrate
the slowly moving limits of a glass-geared watch
( all cycloidal and double-jointed thumbs.

assume you have insight into things that are missing.

assume you can, without restriction, pull distinctly random temperatures back into an intergalactic bomb, hold it your hand, there are no known laws to stop you.

the assumption is not completely unreasonable as it is yet-to-be-determined.
assume your gods have flown their lockets and have left us here with little

left to burn.
II.

Let's imagine you are now given the opportunity to

fill
form
rest
& set into

:spacetime:

you can imagine this as:

a wobbly rubber sheet, a dental dam,
a hemmed-in trampoline, a superfluid,
a cube of Jell-O, every indivisible instant,
a graph paper made into an origami
tesseract, Minkowski,
fabric-and-coiled springs,
synchronized intervals,
the cross-section of a jungle gym
with clocks at each intersection.
Let's pause a moment to take this all in.

The basic property here is that we live in a configuration of

- space and time
- subject and object
- theory and experiment
- electricity and magnetism
- compression and expansion

If it fits the facts, it fits a memory, it fits the data
--or perhaps it is some passive backdrop that we are
& we are not
  in the world.

Let's take all of the unsolved questions,
Google some plausible answers and spend the
rest of our time measuring the gravitational pull
of a wet washcloth: the tension of half on and half off
the table, top to tiles.
you will learn to keep yourself company with questions.

there are temperature fluctuations in baby pictures printed in 3-D.

semantic filters, depending on the red and blue lines you collate.

even in you had perfect vision, you still wouldn't be happy.

keep the symmetry in a steady state now & then cancel out what remains of the day.

to keep things --simple--
always stay the same when you collapse.

to keep things --steady--
ever let them see your hands.
even in look-back time,
we could never prevent the stars from forming.

we will never have been long enough
to learn to breathe fire without
scalding our lungs.

but, you will have plenty of time to
cool and sink

simplify

compress then inflate,
see the sky, dark and lit.

beaded sunflower heads will bend when you, too,
bend your head to contemplate
the dirt.
it has always been
an ear-to-the-ground
a listen-to-the-planets-hum as
in-harmonic painting with

such heavy-handed brush strokes,
the way we can never paint:

fastidious as rain drops chewing through
yellow bridges

trimming pixels
mottled and consistent
tiny fluctuations
untangle the cords until
    you finally find the outlet
    & draw a sight-line
as far back in time as we can
see.
Heather Kresge is writer, photographer, artist, journalist, educator, small business owner, and MFA candidate in the Department of English at the University of Pittsburgh. She can be reached on Twitter @heatherLkresge and on Instagram @heatherkresge.photo.

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