

Nithin Raghavan

Jake Dalton

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As I lay comfortably on the bed, my body oriented towards the south, I notice that the surrounding atmosphere appears to change. My family, surrounding me as I rest, appears to notice this too. Some of my relatives begin to converse in low voices, while others look at me with solemn faces. A feeling of empathy washes over me, and I attempt to reassure them that there is nothing to worry about. However, the words die on my tongue as I am struck with a sudden wonder: I am no longer able to comprehend the scenery around me. The outlines of my family appear to have grown sharper, but I soon realize that this is because their vitality appears to have faded completely. I become unable to discern their voices; the sounds echo inside my head as if I had fallen into a deep well. I try to hold this vision. As I marvel at this abrupt change, I realize that my body has become heavy and uncomfortable. I try to shift it to a more comfortable position, but I find that I have become immobile. This feeling is unlike anything I have felt before; with the end clearly in sight, my mind begins to flit this way and that, suddenly unprepared to deal with the looming notion of death. My eyes begin to dry out, and the vision of my family I held with such reverence appears to become more wispy, as if the world were going up in smoke. And all at once, I seem to grow unconcerned with worldly affairs, and become incapable of attempting to remember. With this sudden apathy comes a corresponding inability to breathe. I close my eyes, and await the inevitable. My breaths become shorter, more labored, and my eyes roll upwards, indeed, rolling into a different plane of existence altogether; one that does not require eyesight to visualize. My perception, formerly a dim red light filtered through my eyelids, appears to fade slowly.

Suddenly a new vision begins to unfold before me (I use the term *vision* as I cannot comprehend that these are not different from the nature of the mind). A lightless light -- an exhalation of formless flame -- appears to flood this plane of existence, a diffuse ocean of silver, shining, originating from somewhere and yet nowhere. From the opposite direction, I feel a red color streaking across this plane as if the Sun itself had suddenly willed itself into existence. A blackness, a color darker than anything I experienced during my life, suddenly appears at the union of these lights, and begins to expand, spreading outward to the peripheries of my "sight," until it becomes all that I can perceive. Marvelling at the displays of color that unveiled themselves before me, and perhaps due to an apparent, inherent serenity in the void that now surrounds me, I now feel a sense of tranquility. I do not know for how long this sensation lasts, but eventually a certain weight appears to fall from my person, a weight I previously was not even aware existed. I realize now that this must be the weight of my body, and so I am reduced to nothing. At the same time, I begin to experience a vague feeling, an apparent compulsion *ex nihilo*, indicating the existence of something large, incoherent and potentially frightening.

Although I am now without form, I manage to shift my view, and an effulgent radiance fills my vision. Being formless, and without origin, it is vastly different from the displays of light I previously encountered, and its sheer immensity is far greater than anything I had hoped to prepare for. It surrounds me, drowning me, daunting me, but I cannot panic, as I am unable to properly understand what this phenomenon is (due to my not being adequately prepared for this moment). A dread, a subtle fear, emerges from within me. Perceiving this ocean as being separate from myself, I cling to what I understood best: the experiences of my physical life. I attempt to withdraw into these feelings, continuing to cling onto the notion of 'I' and 'mine', for a short time preventing this limitless ocean from absorbing and destroying me. The radiance grows more potent as I resist, and the fight now requires all my willpower; very soon I am forced

to give up, and I am immediately dissolved into a body of light, moving through a chamber of radiance, that I perceive to be wholly and innately separate from myself.