



the
**Dying
Alchemists**

Reflections on Existence

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SAMPLE PAGES



Midnight calls

At the end of the day,
rays of light,
that moments ago
sliced the sky,
glance the Earth,
scattering
in cold space

already so far away

dimming
softening
twilight comes

darkness
midnight calls

On nights like these,
alone
surfing untethered thoughts
I sometimes
catch a glimpse,

a flash
a taste
of what could be



PART 4

Stepping Through

Love and loss

Day by day

days
assembling
in weighty sequence
building the years
collecting lives

too long
for a moment
too quick
for a season
replaced at dawn
dissolved at night

and then
into that final year
one last day

hidden
unknown
nearer
never too far
close



Energy Epilogue

There is a problem with our relationship to energy, between our species-wide desire to strive and develop our societies and the manner in which we utilise energy to do so. We have established an unsustainable dependency on finite resources, while at the same time practising indiscriminate consumption and promulgating the wasteful and inefficient utilisation of those resources.

We have been burning carbon-based sources of chemical energy – wood, coal, gas and petroleum products, in increasing quantities, since the Industrial Revolution back in the 1800s and the resultant benefits have been truly significant. Having access to surplus energy allows people to live longer and more comfortable lives, with higher standards of living than would otherwise be possible, but there are consequences.

The most significant upshot of access to these energy sources, over the last 300 years, has been significant and sustained population growth. Today the human population on Earth has risen to almost eight billion and the United Nations projections for 2120, put the global human population at (depending on what assumptions are made around fertility, longevity, etc.) as high as 11 billion.

The UN predicts that the overwhelming percentage of this population growth will occur within developing countries in Africa and Asia. Developed countries, in keeping with past trends, are projected to maintain static populations over the next 100 years. Because birth rates decline in countries as they develop, ensuring the developing countries climb above current poverty levels appears to be one of the most effective strategies we have to combat global overpopulation.

*‘If you wish to make apple pie from scratch,
you must first invent the Universe.’*
Dr. Carl Sagan

Table of Contents

A Note From the Author..... i
 Brief Thoughts1
 PART 1: Living on Earth.....9
 Here and Now.....11
 Society and Knowledge.....17
 Local Ecology.....25
 Global Ecology31
 The Web of Life.....37
 PART 2: Stepping Up 47
 Physical Systems.....49
 Our Solar System55
 The Milky Way.....63
 The Known Universe71
 The Unknown Universe.....79
 PART 3: Stepping Down 87
 Packing Up the Universe.....89
 Biology and Life.....97
 Water 105
 Chemistry and Matter..... 113
 Atomic Reality 121
 PART 4: Stepping Through 131
 Beyond the Veil 133
 It's All Energy 141
 Time and Relativity..... 149
 It's All Connected 155
 Energy Epilogue 163
 Artist's Statement 166
 Acknowledgements..... 167



List of Poems

Too soon.....4
 PART 1: Ode to life on Earth.....9
 Butterfly14
 A day on the plain21
 Steps on a cold day28
 One.....35
 Sixty five million years ago.....43
 PART 2: Reflections on existence..... 47
 Midnight calls.....53
 Still in time60
 Once more68
 Bang77
 The dying alchemists.....82
 PART 3: Time and the progression of life 87
 When I was a child.....94
 A new day begins 103
 Day by day..... 110
 A year goes by 119
 One lifetime..... 126
 PART 4: Love and loss 131
 If 138
 Love's clear light..... 146
 Gone 152
 The deathbed test..... 159