

# a quasi-sonnet with some astronomical content

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Not quite a sonnet, because these are fourteeners, with seven iambs, not five.

space and time are details  
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There is no splendor in the purple sky that can be caught  
In picture postcards, coffee table books, or on the Web.  
The ardor of the Garnet Star, the cold glare of Deneb,  
Are caged in two dimensions, circumscribed in time and thought.

The dead of night, far from the gloaming: Only from that seat  
Might one receive the breathing tissue of the endless lights.  
—And yet not endless, for the light-years hide the unseen blights  
That snuff a furnace, though they fail to check its fleeing heat.

But fires that died today may still enjoy another power:  
The embers, buried in the ash, and fanned by winds tomorrow.  
And if the spectacle \*I\* saw lacked rival in its hour,  
More lie in waiting, uneclipsed by memory or by sorrow.

The light that touched my callow eyes is not the light you see;  
That it should shine for you as well is quite enough for me.

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