

from "Star Lines: A Collection of Cosmic Poetry" by Ron Perovich

## Carl's Lesson

You are all of you.  
A sum of carnal cataloguery  
Of each quanta you contain,  
From your most delicate detail,  
Wanted or unwanted,  
That atomically divides You  
From Not You.  
But drill down deep enough,  
Till the signature is blurred,  
Till no difference is found  
Between your blue, blue eyes,  
And discarded toenail clip...  
Between ceaseless cardiac muscle,  
And tangled comb refuse...  
And see that every piece of you,  
At its tiniest, tiniest piece,  
Is a Love Letter.  
It is the dying words of a longer life  
Than you will ever know,  
That burned brighter  
Than you will ever imagine.  
It is written in a script of  
Calcium and Carbon,  
Iron and Oxygen.  
You are what you are.  
And so you are the stars.  
A supernova  
That clapped against the blackness  
Before there was ever an ear to hear it,  
May not have spoke your name  
But did speak what would be you.  
So go and be  
The Star  
You were meant  
To be.