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Ask for a universe and what do you get?

A Golden Shovel for Beatrice Tinsley

For a while scientists' proposed loopholes
crossing the universe, wormholes a technique in
which to traverse distance to other worlds, this

unpleasant constraint which most reasoning
holds us to a single solar system or may
be, just perhaps a transit could exist

to get us to Proxima Centauri but
travelling 4.25 light years is a big if —
human tolerance of forces matter — so

most likely our AI will proceed us and they
will send back slow data just to say *We are
fine and happy in the primordial*

*reaches of space making the invisible
visible while we observe expansion — or
it is possible we will forget them perhaps*

because the heat becomes unbearable or maybe just
because too close to light we lose night's black.

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Note: Beatrice Tinsley (1941 – 1981) was an astronomer who made fundamental contributions to our understanding of the evolution of galaxies. *A Golden Shovel* is a poetry form used for writing homage poems. The last words of each line in a Golden Shovel poem are, in order, words from a line or lines from the work of the person in whose honor the poem was written. This form was invented by Terrance Hayes, and was originally used in a tribute to Gwendolyn Brooks.