

Yes is a long time

"This is the work of saints and seers. The authors were concerned with reporting insights which came to them in thought or vision, not with making these insights superficially coherent. They were not builders of systems but recorders of experience. We must be prepared, therefore, for apparent inconsistency, for obliviousness to one conception through temporary absorption in another. Nowhere must we expect to find the whole truth gathered together once for all in easy, conscious, triumphant formulation."

Prologue/Incantation:

(Introduction of artists, characters, story and themes)

All: We

Antonio: The performers

Jacqueline: Are here tonight on September 30, 2011 --

Mira: at 8pm – ish (or say actual time apologetically, 8:07)

J: to tell you a story

A: About a family.

(moment of acknowledgment between the performers, who are themselves a family. Interrupted by:)

M: From freehold township, NEW JERSEY!

J: (with gesture) A mother.

A: (with gesture) A father.

M: (with gesture) A son.

J: Ordinary people. (gesture for 'ordinary people')

A: Like us.

M: Like you.

J: Who did something extraordinary. (gesture – is it the same as the one for ordinary?)

A: Like we hope to.

J: Like we all hope to.

M: Because of a small rock. That fell from the sky and crashed through their roof. Into a bathroom.

(break, re-locate)

M: We. The performers --

J: Here

A: In the United states of America --

J: In the state of California --

A: At the University of California at Santa Barbara . In the Hatlen theater.

(beat)

M: Onstage.

J: We tell this story because -- (Alt: J: This performer sometimes called the father, the scientist, the meteorite, tells this story because)

A: Well, I haven't acted in a while. After graduate school I moved back home to Hawaii, which is very very very far away. But my family needed me. And when Mira told me the story I felt sad for the family, but I was joyful because and made me feel less alone. So I tell this story because it makes me feel not alone."

All: And – (Alt: J: This performer sometimes called etc)

J: "Well, I like thinking about space. Outer space. Distant space. Unknowable. Inner space. Conceptual space. Sacred space. Storage space.

(Wiping gesture)

All: And (Alt: This performer sometimes called)

M: Because I was born in Neptune, New Jersey a few miles from where the story takes place. And because I believe in this family, and I believe in these performers, and I believe in you, and I believe in believing –

(Wiping gesture)

All: And we tell this story for the family, who have helped us to remember the sky or at least that place two, three, four inches above our heads.

(Music begins. Break. Continue counting.)

All: These are our reasons for telling of the rock's great promise and eventual fall from grace and of the family's *and our own* attempt to save ourselves from the unbearable clutches of coincidence by naming this promise and fall as destiny. We thank you for coming and, now, we will begin.

(Turn. Jump)

Movement I: Yes

The creation of the entire universe:

The performers travel through space and time to locate the house in New Jersey. From there they move out out out past the moon and planets in our solar system to other solar systems and galaxies to where the meteorite was created and began its journey.

The meteorite lands in the family's house

(In this ritual the bathroom is located within the house and pulled out to actual scale. The family describes their life in terms of this bathroom)

FAMILY Guest bathroom (*Tone of adoration*)

(The family takes their places around the bathroom)

FATHER

Father, inside the guest bathroom

MOTHER

Mother at the door of the guest bathroom (~~or outside the door~~)

SON

Son. Moving through walls, unseen.

(Father gestures door, enters)

FATHER

The father has a secret life and it is called
'Alone in the guest bathroom staring at himself in the mirror'
Mirror
Sink
Faucet
Face. . .

(He tries again)

Mirror
Sink
Faucet
(turning it on) Water
Warm. . .

Face!

(Again)
Mirror

Sink
Faucet
Water
Bathmat over cold tile
Door – shut!

Face.

Alone in the guest bathroom staring at himself in the mirror the father sees a face. . .

His face.

His face?

The face of
a father
an immigrant,
an information technology specialist

Not an important face
But a face
Yes?
No.
I don't know.

MOTHER

The mother has a secret life and it is called
Watching her husband have a secret life in the guest bathroom
In there
he does not do the normal private bathroom things
It is something else
Something more private
And so, when he returns
She pretends not to have noticed that he has been gone for
five to twenty five minutes
She looks up or she doesn't
And then a few minutes later, she studies him
To see if he has changed

SON

I'm not really their son. They haven't noticed yet.

MOTHER

Sometimes she stops in the middle of cooking, or watching television or sleeping
and notices he's not there and thinks

He's in the guest bathroom
Sometimes they're talking or making love or driving somewhere and
She thinks
He's in the guest bathroom

FATHER

He hopes that the mirror will tell him something
Once and for all
Yes.
No.
I don't know.

MOTHER The mother's heart has always been sturdy

Some would say hard
It is her eyes that take everything in,
And only sometimes notify the heart
She watches
(She watches) her son grow up
Her bookcases fill
Her job title getting longer
She watches, storing everything she sees.

SON

They think I'm a seven year old human boy because I look just like a seven year old human boy.

FATHER

He studies the minute changes
That time is writing on his face
The new lines, the old lines, and wonders
Is this the right direction?
Is this the right face?

MOTHER

The days become shorter
The dishwasher fills and empties fills and empties

FATHER

Is this the right place?

SON

I am not from this planet. Not originally. I have very powerful powers. Things you can't imagine.

MOTHER

She watches, storing everything she sees.

FATHER

The mirror tells the truth
And it is not bad news
And it is not especially good news either
He looks everyday
Because some part of him
Still doesn't trust this face –

SON

I won't hurt them. They are nice parents.

MOTHER

She wants to be prepared.

SON

But they don't have any special powers.

MOTHER

Though she doesn't think anything will happen.

SON

I try to help them with my powers, but it weakens me. I may die anytime.

FATHER

And because some part of him --

SON

It's already begun to happen.

MOTHER

Though she doesn't think anything will happen.

SON

Very soon I'll be gone from this place.

FATHER

From childhood --
From something he read --
From a dream he had once --
Still wonders
If this is his destiny
Here.

The fall and landing of the Meteorite

(Performers' hands are anointed with yellow, becoming the meteorite)

The family discovers the meteorite

(The Father, in guest bathroom with meteorite before him)

FATHER

What the H?

A rock. Flew into the guest bathroom.

A rock crashed through the roof and fiberglass insulation and sheetrock and landed on the floor of the guest bathroom.

(beat)

IT COULD HAVE HIT ME IN THE HEAD!

It could have landed in any other room.

Or in any other house in Colt's Pride housing development.

(He shuts the door)

It could be bad luck . . .

Or good luck.

Or nothing.

Or.

Something...

It could be something.

(Naaaaaaaaaaaaah)

But it could be.

(No.)

It could be my destiny. To have taken up residence in this guest bathroom, on the second floor, that no one really uses, and to have felt that something might happen -- that there might be something more. Maybe? And then to discover this rock here. That is maybe. Something.

(A rock. So what?)

Or maybe it's not just a rock.

Maybe.

(He reaches for it / come here / not yet movement)

Are you a meteorite?

(Father takes the meteorite inside his head)

It says Yes.

Yes. Yes.

A meteorite is something.

(A meteorite in your guest bathroom?)

There is something in the guest bathroom. My guest bathroom.

I think it is destiny. For me to be in this place. And I am.

For this rock to be in this place. And it is.

Here *is* my destiny. This guest bathroom. This mirror. (Looking into it) This father. This immigrant! This information technology specialist! This face.

(He asks the meteorite)

Do I have to tell anyone?

It says yes.

The Father shows the Mother the Meteorite

1.

M You want me to ...?

F Come in

M (To the guest bathroom?)

F Look

M Okay, coming!

F Look

M Door

Door

Door

Door

Door to the guest bathroom

(I'm in the guest bathroom!)

F Look.

M A rock?

F No, look.

M There's a hole in the ceiling!

F Look

M And the tile is shattered

F Look

M Held in place by the evergreen bathmat

F And a chip in the bathroom tile the shape of a triangle that is tired.

M And a hole in the wall

F Where the rock lodged itself

M And below the place on the floor where the plaster broke into chunks of uneven dust.

F Yes!

M (I'm in the guest bathroom!)

2.

M A rock

M A hole in the ceiling!

M And the tile is shattered --

M Held in place by the evergreen bathmat

M And a chip in the bathroom tile the shape of a triangle --

M And a hole in the wall --

M Where the rock lodged itself --

M And below the place on the floor where the plaster broke into chunks of uneven dust.

F Yes!

M Yes?

(beat)

M What?

F Look.

(While she speaks he guides the meteorite into her heart)

M I'm looking! I've been looking. What am I supposed to see? All I see is a rock. I want to see. I do. I've watched and waited, looking for something, I'm looking, but I only see dust and things that need to be repaired and cleaned up . . .

M: Oh.

F Oh?

M: Ohhhhhh

F Uh oh.

M A meteorite. A meteorite!

(perhaps this is to Husband)

A meteorite has been coming to us for such a long time. For as long as we've been watching and longer

(to the universe)

Since before our son was born, before we were born, before our parents' parents' parents'

F: Hole in the ceiling/roof

(She lifts out of the roof)

M: Before Freehold Raceway Mall was built

When the timber of our roof was still a growing thing, when there were still great forests here, when you could still see the stars at night, when, when, when only the land was living, quietly alone with itself, when the land was buried and this was ocean covered with algae that conversed with the stars through reflection, Back Back back, So far back we can't even conceive of it, back (beyond), this thing has been coming to us.

As long as we've been waiting. As long as we've been watching, as long as we've been, before we were, before we even knew ourselves, this thing was on its way to us, here.

(They see each other. A faltering, universe-crossing embrace)

F: Yes

M: Yes.

F: Yes

M: Yes

F: Do we have to tell anyone?

M: Yes.

F: But not tonight.

M: No, no, not tonight. We'll call in the morning.

F: SON!

The Son meets the Meteorite

SON

(Screams. The chase)

OH. MY. GOD.

There's a meteor!

A GIANT meteor

From outer space

Ruuuuuuuuuuun.

It's coming right for me.

It's after me!

Me!

Meeeeeeeeeeeeee!

*I didn't – I didn't think it would be so soon. I didn't think it would be a meteorite. I-
I – I'm not ready to die – I thought I was – but I'm – I'm – I'm*

I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

I KNOW I SAID I WAS READY BUT -

I'M TOO YOUNG!

*I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE LIGHT SHOW AT THE LIBERTY SCIENCE
MUSEUM*

OR TO SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE

OR FINISHED THE SECOND GRADE.

(As meteorite finally catches up to him)

It's coming right for my head!

Even my special powers can't save me

It's gonna kill me .

(Meteorite passes his head)

Am I dead?

Is this heaven?

Wait!

It went right past me!

It didn't hit me!

Where's it going?

Hey come back!

SON (continued)

Hey!
Over here!
Here!

(Serious)

Did you come here for me?
Are you here to help me?
Did they send you to find me?
So there'd be two of us?
I knew it! I knew there was a reason --
Do you have special powers too?
I have special powers.
Very powerful powers.
Do you want to see? I'll show you.

Look I can start to fly – just the starting part because my wings haven't grown in all the way --

I can run as fast as wind –
I can make the leaves on the trees shiver.
And be still.
And turn my butt into a rock..
And then. I bang things. Really hard.
And break things.

I'm sorry.

And I can turn my feet into grass.
And things grow in them.
But I have to stand really still.
And not squirm when roots grow in my veins.
Or the ground gets cold at night.

And reach the top of the bookcase where there's stuff I'm not supposed to know about –

And I can read "documents" and memorize them and when I get older I'll know what they mean.

And I can fight myself.

And win.

And I can drive a car – if it's already on --
And go in the basement with the lights off.
And I can hold down the floor

And, I can take it.

And hold it tightly.

In.

And shrink it.

Down.

SON (continued)

To.

The size of.

A.

Ping.

Pong.

Ball. – It's a little hot – and then I hide it in the backyard and then I go to sleep.

When I wake up it's there again.

And I can um (slowly he goes into a longer phrase)

That was reaching my whole arm into a crocodile's mouth, and down his throat and into his stomach so I can get my mother's car keys back.

I didn't even know I could do that one!

I think you're giving me extra powers.

(Another longer phrase. Afterwards)

I can let myself die and then come back.

(Another phrase).

And I can listen.

(pause)

You came for me, didn't you? And you can help me, can't you? (beat) Can you help them too? They don't have powers.

(coming downstage)

We'll put our powers together.

I won't leave you.

And you won't leave me.

We're together now.

(pause)

It's going to change everything.

(pause)

SON (continued)

I want it to.

~~Something is about to happen. I don't know if it's going to be good or bad, but it's going to be big. It could change everything. I want it to.~~

(He experiments with how to activate the meteorite. Finally realizing – of course! I'm supposed to swallow it)

Family scene with Meteorite.

S: So it's ours?

F: It came to us.

S: Our secret!

F: No. It's not a secret.

M: We're going to share it.

S: With who?

M: With everyone.

F: Tomorrow we're going to call the authorities and let them have a look and see if they agree that it's --

M: A meteorite.

S: Will they give it back?

M: Yes

S: But what will they do to it?

F: They'll examine it, show it to some local scientists

S: And they zap it?

F: No.

S: Or turn it inside out, or cut it open?

M: No.

S: Or make it take tests or talk to a psychologist??

F: No, we'll only let them look at it.

M: We promise.

S: So it'll always be ours?

M: It belongs to everyone.

F: But it came to us. We'll watch over it.

M: We won't let anyone hurt it.

F: We promise.

M: Promise.

S: Yes.

All: Yes.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes.

(The family releases the meteorite to the audience and the whole world)

Movement II: Heavy Metal Rock

(The family transforms into heavy metal scientists in lab coats and goggles)

SPOKEN INTRO (dry ice dramatic) by the rock stars

It came from the sky
That much we can say
And it's not an aircraft part
According to the FAA

But is it really a meteorite?
Or some kind of nebulous fake?
That's what us heavy metal rock experts wanna know
And we'll do whatever it takes

REFRAIN

Meteorite-right Meteorite-wrong
Meteor song
Is it a meteorite? That's what we want to know.
(We want to know. We want to know.)
The only way to be sure is to cut into the core.
Is it Yes or is it No?

VERSE

Come into my laboratory
I wanna feel your extraterrestrial insides
Tell me your fallen star story
And I'll make you my aeronautic bride

The Geiger counter indicates
You're not radioactive
But you feel so extra galactic hot
You make this scientist want to live!

The family gave one condition
And they're making the calls
Cutting into the rock is FORBIDDEN
And its giving us investigatory blue balls

REFRAIN

Meteorite-right Meteorite-wrong
Meteor song
Is it a meteorite? That's what we want to know.
We want to Know. We want to know.
A meteorite is a Meteoroid that falls to earth.

Is it yes or is it no?

VERSE

Do you have a crystalline structure?
Do you got a fusion crust?
Are you stony, nickel or iron?
(Come on little rock,) you gotta help me to trust

Oh let me inside you
Your microscopic wonder
I want to test, assess, penetrate
Your heavenly plunder

BRIDGE

Certainty is so beautiful
It's factually un-refutable
It's scientifically prove-able
Heavy metal in-disputable
I wanna be your Sedimentologist!
Meteorologist!
Phd Geologist!
Astral Theologist
Star-studded psycologist

ASIDE SONG

(this happens right under the rockers' noses, it is the part of them that feels the magic of the rock and will later be swept up in the rock's song)

And the rock, little rock
Was all alone
Away from the fam-ah-lee
The rock, little rock
So far from the home
Was on display for all to see

And the rock little rock
Felt cold and still
Alone in a clear glass box
And the rock little rock
What do you feel?

SPOKEN ASIDES

Spoken asides & questions for the Meteorite from the scientists pressing the Meteorite into the inside inside song:

And another thing - Why did you fall on NJ anyway? Don't you know there are better places like Hawaii. Hawaii. Hawaii. We all just want to live in Hawaii. Or France. France. Where the government supports the arts. France. Come on rock, can't you tell us anything? I don't want to say nothing bad about the family but they won't let us touch you. Don't you want us to touch you? Say yes. Glisten a little brighter if you want us to touch you. Give us a sign if you want us to touch you. Give us something, come on baby. . .

METEORITE'S SONG

(should be heard small and true, from different part of the theater, the rockers falls still listen and then get swept up, make it their own)

I remember the wind and the wind and the wind
and the wind and the wind and the wind.
I remember the wind and the wind and the wind, and the wind and the wind, and
the wind.
I remember the wind and the wind and the wind and the wind
Yes I remember the wind

(The Rock Stars pick up with the Meteorite. They get caught up with the wind song. It grows. Until. Glory be.)

It's a Meteorite.
AHHHHHH
As far as we can tell without cutting into it.

(A massive ending to the song. Then. Musicians smash their guitars. Exit. After a moment they re-enter and smash their guitars More. Then they smash the smashed pieces. Then they stomp the smashed smashed pieces into smaller pieces. Into particles. Into dust. Into nothing. Think deconstructionism)

MOVEMENT III Yes is a long time

(The family orbits in time with the universe)

F: Father

M: Mother.

S: Cosmic.

F: My son isn't just a regular boy.

S: My father taught me the word cosmic.

F: He sees things that regular people don't.

M: He has a nose that is highly attuned to the truth

S: My mother can see through walls --

M: My husband is a good man.

S: My parents know about my powers.

F: This is my family

S: We adopted a meteorite!

F: It is part of our family.

M: It was in the newspaper.

S: Everyone at school knew about it.

F: Reporters called the house.

M: We told what we knew.

S: Tell me again.

M: It travelled millions of miles to get here.

F: It flew eight miles per second.

M: When it entered the atmosphere, it got very hot. It began to burn and give off light.

F: It's called a shooting star

M: Most meteorites burn up in the atmosphere –

F: (to mother) Before they get a chance to land.

M: There's a seventy-one percent chance that it will land in an ocean.

F: But this one landed here.

M: In our guest bathroom.

F: Yes.

S: When people see a meteorite falling and then go find it, it's called. . .

F: "A fall!"

M: Meteorites that people come across later --

S: Are called finds!

M: We were here, waiting for it.

S: We are a family.

M: It was part of something much bigger

F: A moon or an asteroid...

M: A planet

S: Like this planet?

M: Yes.

F: Yes.

S: Yes. (beat) Tell me again!

M: It travelled millions of miles to get here.

F: It flew eight miles per second.

M: When it entered the atmosphere, it got very hot. It began to burn and give off light.

F: It's called a shooting star

M: Most meteorites burn up in the atmosphere (to father) before they get a chance to land.

F: A lot of them get lost in the ocean.

S: Seventy one!

M: There's a seventy-one percent chance that it will land in an ocean.

S: But this one landed in our guest bathroom.

F: Yes.

M: Yes.

(beat)

S: When people watch a meteorite fall and then go track it down, it's called. . .

M: A fall. Meteorites that people come across later --

S: Are called finds!

M: We were here, waiting for it.

S: This is my family

M: It was part of something much bigger

F: A moon or an asteroid...

M: A planet

S: Like this planet?

M: Yes.

F: But then it collided with something and was sent in another direction.

M: To us.

F: It travelled everyday without stopping

S: Did it get tired?

F: Sometimes.

M: But it kept going.

F: For years . . .

S: We'll watch over it. We won't let anyone hurt it.

M: We promise.

F: Promise.

(beat)

S: How did we know it was a meteorite?

M: We just knew.

F: We let some scientists look at it --

S: But they didn't hurt it.

M: No.

S: You promised.

F: We promised.

M: And they knew just from looking at it.

(beat)

F: Well they did some tests.

S: But they didn't cut it.

F: No, no.

M: They looked at it carefully.

F: To see what it was made of. There are three kinds of meteorites.

S: Stony, Iron and stony iron.

F: That's right.

S: Ours is made of iron!

F: They think it's made of iron. They can't be one hundred percent sure.

M: Nothing is one hundred percent sure.

F: Unless they cut into it.

(beat)

S: Tell me again.

M: It travelled millions of miles to get here.

It flew eight miles per second.

When it entered the atmosphere, it got very hot --

F: It began to burn

M: and give off light -- It's called a shooting star

F: Most meteorites burn up in the atmosphere before they get a chance to land. Or they land in the ocean and are lost. No one really knows.

M: But this one landed in our guest bathroom! When people watch a meteorite fall and then go track it down, it's called a fall! Meteorites that people come across later are called finds! We were here, waiting for it.

F: We waited a long time. By the time it got here, we were tired.

M: We knew it was for us.

S: And that it would help us and protect us. It is part of our family now.

M: Yes.

S: Yes.

F: Yes? No? Tell me again. . .

S: It travelled millions of miles to get here.

(he pauses waiting for them to chime in, then)

S: When it entered the atmosphere, it got very hot. It began to burn and give off light.

It's called a shooting star

Most meteorites burn up in the atmosphere. Before they get a chance to land.

M: There's a seventy-one percent chance that it will land in an ocean. But this one landed in our guest bathroom. This one. Came to us.

We were here, waiting for it.

We knew it was for us.

Doubt Scene

FATHER

Are you a meteorite?

Are you a meteorite?

Are you a meteorite?

I don't know.

Corner. Towel rack.

Argument and Silent Son

M

You shut the door.

F

Yes.

M

Are you okay?

F

No.

M

Where are you?

F
I'm going out.

M
What are you doing with the meteorite?

F
I don't know. If it's a meteorite.

M
What?

F
I'm taking it for further testing.

M
I thought we were sure.

F
We can't be sure unless they cut into it.

M
We were sure.

F
No, we weren't.

M
We were!

F
No. We wanted to be. We wanted to be sure of something.

M
But that would destroy it.

F
I'm just asking for more information.

M
We don't need more information!

F
I just need something --

M
Don't give up.

F
I'm not an expert.

M
I have doubts too –

F
Or a scientist.

M
But I don't give in to the --

F
You're stronger than me.

M
I just keep going

F
I don't have any answers.

M
You can't give up!

F
I'm just a man.

SON
I'm sorry. This happens. I know what you are. I believe you. But, My father ran out of power.

Something happens to humans. They don't have enough special powers to believe in things for very long. Sometimes they can go for like a months or two, sometimes it's only like a few hours. If it makes you feel better, this is the longest they've gone.

So, we're going to have to cut you open.

But I'm going to do it. I'm going to do it to you, so that if you need any of my powers, I'll be right here. Okay?

SON (continued)

I don't know if it's going to hurt. It probably will. But later, it will stop hurting. Or you'll get used to it. You're strong like me. You'll be okay. We've still got a little power left. We'll go through this together.

I'm going to do it now. I'll do it fast.

Deus Ex Machina via VIDEO

(The scientists deliver a video message)

Scientists:

Ahem and shit.

We got news.

Hold on little man.

Hold onto that rock.

We got good news

Rock news.

Seriosuly.

Serious.

Deus Ex Machina serious

We got PhDs.

We got some science for you.

New science.

Shit happens.

Things change. Even science. Especially science.

Listen: There's a new test that can determine if your meteorite is really a meteorite.

Without cutting into it.

We know how sensitive you are about your little object.

There's this thing called a variable-pressure scanning electron microscope --

The American Museum of Natural History has just acquired one of these bad boys --

It can determine the chemical composition of an object by beaming electrons at it.

The electrons excite electrons in the object being tested causing it to give off x-rays

The microscope deciphers these rays, identifying what elements are present in the object.

If it's made of stone, iron or stony iron, it's a meteorite.

If it's not, it's not.

Science changes all the time.

Nothing personal.

We still like your rock.

The test takes about forty-five minutes.

We got PhDs.

I got two.

SANDWICH SCENE

MOTHER

Do you want a sandwich before you go?
It might be good to have something to eat.
The test takes about forty-five minutes. Plus the drive.
I have cheese
And turkey breast
And sandwich pickles
And ciabatta bread

That's what our son likes for lunch.

(pause)

I am still your wife

FATHER

I remember. Yes, make me the sandwich our son likes for lunch. Only, no ciabatta bread, it's too much.

(The father and son depart to take the meteorite to be tested. The mother washes all glitter from them) no action

Mother

Yes is a long time / It is Sunday and Monday followed always by Tuesday
Wednesday Thursday / It is measured in inches / seconds/ breaths / years / It is
enjoying the echo of your own footsteps in a quiet hallway / The old man you saw
across the street only once and loved / And Friday and Saturday / Yes that was
me / When you can't sleep / Can't cry / Yes that was me / It is offering something
/ however imperfect / a piece of toast / a hand / silence / It is trying to think
constructive thoughts / Thoughts free from elaborate schemes that take place in
the future with a you that is not really you / Yes is today /

And Saturday and Sunday and Monday / It's raining again / Leave your shoes
outside / Tuesday and Wednesday / It is opening the door / It's always raining /

Closing the door / Opening the door / Yes that is a slug / Yes it hurts when you

do that / It is closing the door / Watch your hand / Watch your head / Open the
door / Close the door / Open the door / And keep it open / For a stray bit of
information or encouragement that might come in with the mail or the newspaper
or a little girl dressed like a zombie or a pirate / or your own husband looking like
a zombie or a pirate /or a few drops of warm rain

Mother (continued)

It is the day after the wedding / I remember / It is the day after that / I pretend to remember / It is eight years and two hundred days after that / Watch the glass! / I'll clean it up / Yes is driving to work and driving home and getting along with people all day long / Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday or is it Friday now / I used to know / And I just need a second / Does it matter / Saturday / Do you still love me? / Sunday / Did you ever love me? / Monday / Can you remind me what love is? / Tuesday

Yes is staying awake / It is staying / Yes is raising your hand / It is saying something / Yes is watching / Watching and trying to love what you are watching or at the very least not wanting it dead / Yes must be renewed every morning / every minute / far too often and still you say yes / Or your feet say it when they walk to kitchen / to the voting booth / the hospital when your heart is numb and against it.

(The Father and Son return with the rock)

Father

According to the test, the object is composed of a high-chromium steel. It's a type of man-made steel.

It was probably part of a satellite or space station.

It is not a meteorite. It's space junk.

Mother

'No' is a faster, easier word. Easier to live with. There is no shame in it. It is realistic. It is practical. It begins and it ends.

(to father)

'Begin.'

Father

'No.'

Mother

'End.'

End of play