**Planck Time**

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The smallest

meaningful unit of time is 10-43 seconds.

Physics breaks

down at smaller scales. Sometimes,

I’m certain that we exist only within a Planck unit.

Here, what is in motion stays

in motion despite all opposing forces. You,

moving away from me. Me, moving

away from you. And I don’t

remember who took the last

paperback. I don’t remember if we left the rose

curtains open to catch

the sun. I wonder if our fingerprints still dust

the doors, if they touch.

Some nights, I remember every Planck time between us—

distinct units like photons, burning long.

Sometimes, I find my body

has never been at rest.

Planck Era: Between the birth of the universe

and the first Planck time,

in that first 10-43 seconds,

everything was a too-infinitesimal, too-hot mass—

no laws, no time, nothing

but a great burning. A compact chaos.

Could we have existed there?

An Era when we couldn’t be accounted for,

an Era when we couldn’t help but be infinite.

*Note: A Planck unit, originally proposed by German physicist Max Planck, is the shortest possible time internal that can be measured, defined as the time required for a photon to travel a distance of 1 Planck length at the speed of light. Planck Era is thus the earliest stage of the Big Bang, before the first 10-43 seconds – that is, the first 0.000..001 seconds (with 43 zeros).*