

*There are the rushing waves
mountains of molecules
each stupidly minding its own business
trillions apart
yet forming white surf in unison.*

*Ages on ages
before any eyes could see
year after year
thunderously pounding the shore as now.
For whom, or what?
On a dead planet
with no life to entertain.*

*Never at rest
tortured by energy
wasted prodigiously by the sun
poured into space.
A mite makes the sea roar.*

*Deep in the sea
all molecules repeat
the patterns of one another
till complex new ones are formed.
They make others like themselves
and a new dance starts.*

*Growing in size and complexity
living things
masses of atoms
DNA, protein
dancing a pattern ever more intricate.*

*Out of the cradle
onto dry land
here it is
standing:
atoms with consciousness;
matter with curiosity.*

*Stands at the sea,
wonders at wondering: I
a universe of atoms
an atom in the universe.*

*From a public address given by Richard Feynman to the 1955
autumn meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, entitled
"The Value of Science".*