Day 17

Think about what is unfinished in your writing: lines of story, of energy, of plot, of thought. Choose one thing in your writing to bring to completion today.

As you consider completion, consider also the possibility that the complete appearance of something in your writing may occur in the form of a fragment, to be only truly completed in the mind of the reader just as Igor Stravinsky described the way the ear-mind hears dissonance by projecting imaginatively toward the consonant resolution of the dissonant interval.

Warmup: Collecting and Fullness

Do a collecting warmup today. Open a book and let your eyes drop at random onto the page, scooping up words in groups of three or four. Write the words down. Alternately, take a walk through a space in which many people are speaking, and catch some of their words. No need to steer toward big words. Use this exercise to recuperate the workaday words like "and" to special status. See all the words you scoop up in their fullness.

Tuning: Passing and Lurking

Make a diagrammatic diary of all the things passing through your mind today. Find a way to note which are passing and which are lurking. Find a way to note that which you have deliberately and maybe even repeatedly called to the floor.

Generator: Filter Approach

Make a list of images or scenes or language ideas that you've imagined being part of what you're making in this accretion, but that haven't yet shown up in writing. Choose one that is compelling to you and enter into it—but enter with a filter: use attention to light and sound; use childhood feeling; use attention to infrastructure and politics; use attention to assonance or consonance, use swing time... or something else. Cut a deliberate path into this place in your mind waiting to be written. Perhaps this will generate material that goes straight into your accretion; perhaps it will be an occasion for something new to arise—a new event or figure, a new favorite word, a new way of thinking about your approach.