

Day 20

Use today to apply pressure on the material that you've written so that it draws toward a center or a core. Consider how the light and the heavy materials are distributed. Today might be a day to rearrange or reorder, editing or augmenting as you move things around. How could you mark the center of gravity? How can you let some things rise to the surface while others pull toward each other to anchor what you've written?

As you consider this, hold out the possibility that the core might not be made of the heaviest metal, but something light and super-energized. There is no reason this accretion in writing has to behave like a rocky planet.

Warmup: Word Sifter

Write a sentence at random, giving it plenty of nouns and adjectives and verbs. Then rewrite the words of that sentence into a new sentence, upending the original order and sense. Feel free to let words migrate across grammatical functions, so that nouns turn into their verb variations, and so on. Repeat three or four times. Fine to add articles and other small connective tissue as needed.

Tuning: Special Energy

Think about your writing's core. Set a timer for five minutes and write about what matters to you (or has a special, appealing energy) that has shown up in your writing. Pay special attention to moods or truths that showed up as you wrote that you didn't anticipate or didn't bring into the writing deliberately.