

Day 24

Today we continue the alternation between outwardness-openness and inwardness-clarity. In a planetary accretion, when a mass of stuff reaches a certain critical size, it has enough gravitational force in its core to start pulling itself into a spherical shape. Today, consider what shape your own accretion is taking, and use your writing session to clarify and expand that shape. Shape-thinking can be particularly good for allowing you to leap between stepping stones if you find yourself bogged down in incremental development. You can use it to write forward or you can enact it through deletion or rearrangement.

Words: Observational Spill

Do an observation warmup, describing the room you are in with microscopic attention. Use only a single sentence piled and spilling over with clauses. Try to cover an entire page in this one hyper-attentive clause-proliferating sentence.

Mapping Exercise: Possible Shapes

Quickly sketch a diagrammatic representation of your writing so far—its elements, sections, directions. Use this quick sketch as a way to bring your attention to the question of shape. Pay attention to how many units it has, how the parts articulate. Then on another page, draw two or three things in the world that share something about that shape. Is it a cabinet? A bird's nest? A river? A box? An onion? A nesting doll? A painting with another painting underneath? For each of the two or three shapes you nominated as possessing a shared shape, write yourself notes on how the thing you are writing might grow in the next week to fully embrace the *permissions* of that shape.