

Tommer Peterson

Tuesday, a second writing prompt: Teju Cole, *Open City*

(If this gets read aloud, I nominate James Costello to read it.)

How do we measure

the space between

there and here

now and before

you and I

It isn't the numbers on the LED display

or the pages in a journal

It won't be found on a Tide Table

and certainly not on Google

Nor is it a secret coded in the songs of birds at sunrise

nor in the memory of the accidental touch of a stranger

nor in the daily tally of the dead

Inches

Decibels

Lumens

Pounds sterling

Ohms

Touchdowns

Light years

I am sorry

None of these are quite right to mark the interval

not a harmonic third

or even a fourth

But thanks for offering

Really

If you halved the distance between us

then halved it again

and again

and again

and again

The gap would never be closed

There would still always be

a space between

half the distance left

It may be better that way

For who knows what might happen

were we to actually touch souls