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## Contemplative Thoughts About The Intimacy of Physics

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CONTEMP-  
LATIVE  
THOUGHTS  
ABOUT THE  
INTIMACY OF  
PHYSICS

**ASHLEY  
BENEDICT**

science says—  
when two surfaces come into contact,  
they never truly meet;  
hair follicles can brush together  
and toes can curl against bed sheets,  
but it is not skin on fabric,  
nor skin on skin,  
but atom against atom; it is  
animal magnetism and  
organic chemistry  
colliding, colluding,  
pressing impossibly close,  
yet not close enough; it is  
desperate loneliness  
looking for friction,  
fighting for covalent bonds  
to stabilize an otherwise  
perpetual state of motion;  
*settle down, stand still*  
is what they tell us,  
while our atoms jiggle up and  
down, impatient for  
the endless possibilities,  
for the unlimited  
electrons pulsing through  
the air, singing, "We are  
inevitable. Come,  
dance with us. Hold our hands."