



Heraclitus Talks with Chauncey Wright

Ben Carter

Think of the universe as fire, as storm,
Not as a chain but as a web of cause.
If space is an aggregate expressed through time,
Note how we puzzle to discern its laws.
I tell you our knowledge of them will forever be
Expressions of quantified subjectivity.

Grasp that image! And know you shall never know
All that scrambles across your fettered gaze.
Know that whirl is lord, and that all things cohere,
In an overlap, from myriad ways.
Catching a piece, you will forget more than you learn
And what gallops past is gone and shall not return.

The former and the future are both held here
In this slippery instant that you scan.
Gauge their churning fragments while they split and blend.
Graph their principles if you think you can.
Beginning and end are hidden from your full view,
So fire and storm is all that is left to you.

Ben M. Carter earned a B.A. in economic history at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, an M.A. in theological studies from Wheaton College, an M.Th. in Christianity in the Non-Western World from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and a Ph.D. in Christianity in the Non-Western World from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He has published four books and a variety of articles and reviews. Ben is married to Salma Carunia from South India, and is currently employed through the Dallas/Ft. Worth Hospital Council. Correspondence may be sent to him at: bcarter@dfwhc.org.