

## Two Forces I Have Known

by [Valerie Wohlfeld](#) in the [September 2024](#) issue

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### *Centrifugal*

Steadfast outcast, I am fast  
in my inertia from womb to grave.  
Pseudo force, here is gravity without a cause.  
Outward, outward, out—  
am I ever-flung outward-bound  
to outer dark? Solo solace,  
when death claims me will it be as the snake  
    who no longer claims its own shed skin  
to live again? Yet I have envisioned  
One so vast He is unending universe  
and does not sorrow in cold orbits of traverse.

### *Centripetal*

God's cold orbits of traverse  
fix rotating route: I cannot flee,  
I am not free in fleeing to free my soul from Him.  
Inward, inward, in—  
I am spiraling to a center's core,  
God draws me in. Of all waters,  
all beings, He's the wellspring.  
He holds me fast, wheel to linchpin.  
Out of some whirlwind into some whirlpool,  
I am as one bone  
in some great winged breastbone.