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Staying There

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Staying There

The trick is to remember
 That the world moves
 Without your help.
 This is particularly difficult
 On clear nights when light
 From a distant star pierces
 You through. As you stand
 Fixed and transfixed by the beam
 That has opened the black night
 Like a pomegranate, you,
 Now more than ever attached
 To the earth, deprived even
 Of your customary scurry-
 Ing on and scratching in the soil,
 You may be tempted
 To unwind earth's orbit
 That you may ride to the
 Star on the end of a thread.
 Don't. The spinning planet,
 All by itself, is hurtling
 Through space at a rate
 Great enough to satisfy
 Any reasonable desire
 For speed and, night
 And day, coils its
 Seasons around a star.

—Kathryn R. Ashworth