Four Impossible Objects

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FOUR IMPOSSIBLE OBJECTS

Norman Lock

13.
There is a house where only soup is served. In each soup spoon, a hole is bored. What are they if not memento mori – reminders that dignity is, in the end, the prerogative and pose of undertakers?

14.
To slow light so that it becomes too weak to bend its beams onto the point where all vanishes required no other intervention than to resurface the inside of a spyglass barrel with a light-retardant substance comprised mainly of pitch. Now light streams in all its particles and waves onward into time, like train rails too weary to converge. And in the far distance where once sight crowded, the dead are seen to stand as if in a doorway or an opened grave.

15.
Imagine a hinge that on its axis swings beyond what was thought to be the threshold of the possible, where the world may be moved as Archimedes dreamed as if it were no more ponderous than a pear, whose shape (divine, for some) resembles Earth’s own. When twisted, it will let go its stay against gravity to fall – pleasantly – into the palm of one’s hand.

16.
A telegraph key such as reported the Sepoy mutiny or Wounded Knee’s disgrace or, say, Titanic’s foundering can be modified so that darkness, sudden and complete, will – with a nervous click – befall all the earth in the manner that water quenches light when a flaming ship slides down the ways to icy death.