

University of Mississippi

eGrove

Electronic Theses and Dissertations

Graduate School

2019

The Doubting Chain

Eric Delp

University of Mississippi

Follow this and additional works at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/etd>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Delp, Eric, "The Doubting Chain" (2019). *Electronic Theses and Dissertations*. 1573.

<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/etd/1573>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Graduate School at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Electronic Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

THE DOUBTING CHAIN

A Thesis
presented in partial fulfillment of requirements
for the degree of Master of Fine Arts
in the Department of English
The University of Mississippi

by

ERIC DELP

May 2019

Copyright Eric Delp 2019
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

ABSTRACT

This is a collection of poetry.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT ii

THE DOUBTING CHAIN 1

VITA 55

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
in the present
and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
calls to seed calls
there is no flower
and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
in the present
and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
calls to seed calls
there is no flower
and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
in the present
and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
calls to seed calls
there is no flower
and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
in the present
and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
calls to seed calls
there is no flower
and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
in the present
and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
calls to seed calls
there is no flower
and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

[There Is No Time]

if past is not present there is no past
 in the present
 and no future
if the future is not present

as flower is flower is flower is

but if the seed is present in the flower
so is flower in the seed
 superimposed

and if seed answers flower flower
 calls to seed calls
there is no flower
 and neither flower nor seed

for flower is flower is flower is
 always already

[All Things Are Conditional]

how could anything
before before

spring stream river
estuary ocean

cloud ground aquifer
spring

how could anything

in the mouth
the source in the source
the mouth

how could anything
not

[There Is No Time]

only memory
memory illusion
 of time
and persistence through time

 circumstance
and the binding of self to circumstance

as if time doesn't move in both directions

for the future is just as certain as the past
and the past is only as sure as the future
and neither self nor circumstance is fixed

 but unfolding

like the violet petal to petal
the pollen bee to bee
the nectar sweet to sweet
the honey throat by mouth

VITA

Eric Delp is a writer. His poems have appeared in *Drunk in a Midnight Choir*, *Bird's Thumb*, *FreezeRay*, and *Soft Cartel*. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from New College of Florida in 2005.