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## POEM TO THE COMMUNICATION SATELLITES

Matthew Hotham

What a burden to carry the voices  
of millions of humans—specks to you—  
shouting, somehow, their weak  
and varied screeches across atmospheres  
with thick vocal chords to penetrate the low-hung clouds.

How you shuffle through the dozen tongues trained  
to reach your earth-sloped ears—and still, whole continents  
are silence, like they never devised a speech to break  
their planet's bounds. And what games they must play:  
as cities flicker quiet—neighbors strewing nets across the sky  
to suture their voices to the decaying ground.  
Imagine their words reflected back to them—

whole cities of echoes you can't see inside,  
whole cities of darkness and no words get out.