

The Importance of the Screw

Foundation horizontal,
give passage for the pipes
which go to the middle
entering through the masonry.

Do not block the passage,
be as free as possible
passing the screw.
It supports the entire machine.

ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

“The Importance of the Screw” was created from *Steam Turbines* by Hubert E. Collins (McGraw-Hill Book Company 1909). About the poem and the process of composing it, Ann Weil writes:

For this poem I focused on several paragraphs from the chapter entitled “The Curtis Steam Turbine in Practice.” I perused the text, making a list of words and phrases that stood out to me as linguistically interesting, open to interpretation, and prone to double meaning. I then culled the initial list down to the 8 lines you see. I am intrigued by how this piece can be interpreted in multiple ways, including erotically, especially given the original subject matter. These discoveries of language and ideas embedded in unexpected places are what draws me to found poetry—my version of panning for gold.

Ann Weil’s work has appeared in *Halfway Down the Stairs*, *Clementine Unbound*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, *What Next?*, and *The Voices Project*. She lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Online at annweilpoetry.com.

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