

The Boundary of Structure

Primitive figures are rudimentary  
attempts at the directness  
of stroke and touch.

The eye, an evening mist  
of woods and waters, grows  
accustomed to the right poise.

Design is subordinate  
to the artistic purpose—  
the energetic spiral of the artist  
on the flat planes of history

is a meandering line sinking  
to possess a definition within our reach.

Construct a jar of principles  
from a series of shell-like waves:  
of movement and force,  
action and repose.

## ABOUT THE POEM

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“The Boundary of Structure” was created from *Line & Form* by Walter Crane (1900). About the poem and the process of composing it, Shloka Shankar writes:

Inspired by the Dial-A-Text Oulipo prompt on [appliedpoetics.org](http://appliedpoetics.org), I noted down my close friend’s mobile number and altered two digits to avoid repetition and replace a zero. Each number corresponded to a line on the page. For example, the digit 6 meant copying down the sixth line on the first page and so on. I did this thrice to get a sizable word bank. Then I highlighted words and phrases from these mostly incomplete sentences and made a second word bank. From this, the final poem emerged as a remix.

