

## Practice

by [James Crews](#) in the [January 16, 2019](#) issue

Whether meditation or prayer,  
I call what I do each day *practice*  
because I know I'll always be a novice  
seated at the piano, playing  
my scales, doing whatever it takes  
to make music out of touch and air.

Sun slants through leaded glass  
as it has year after year  
across the seasons in this house,  
but there is nothing typical about  
October light or this Christmas cactus  
with tight pink buds about to bloom.

Nothing typical about the whisper  
of dust on the table stirred by  
my footfalls as I walk to the kitchen,  
imagining each mote as a planet  
on which unseen creatures make their home,  
wondering what life might wait

in the infinite space beyond  
dust-houses and dust-mountains,  
dust-cars and dust-markets,  
beyond the layers of their own  
version of dust on a table  
near the window by which they kneel.