

Optimization

By Errol Mickelson

One day, it happens:

there's no more time to waste.

We must stay productive optimize

Get enough sleep optimize

Work enough hours optimize optimize

Check the clock, but not too often

'cause that's wasting time,

and there's no time for that.

Tarnished silver, cracked—fragmented

the gleaming sigil of a watch face

splintered into twelve slivers that dominate all.

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Tarnished silver, titanium metallic

The soaring sides of a great factory,

dirt heaped in incongruous piles around its base

with a deficit of time to move it away.

Tiny figures play

laugh

dance atop the dusty heaps

unaware that the clock's

tick

tock

trudging toward eternity.

Workers stop as they slog toward the factory,

check their watches,

watch the children,

wish they'd optimized their time

when they had the chance.