

1970

# Why You Wanna Know What Time It Is You Got an Appointment with Your Analyst

James Tate

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Tate, James. "Why You Wanna Know What Time It Is You Got an Appointment with Your Analyst." *The Iowa Review* 1.4 (1970): 25-25. Web.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.1125>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

WHY YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS  
YOU GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR ANALYST

When I think no thing is *like* any other thing  
I become speechless, cold, my body turns silver  
and water runs off me, as if repulsed. There I am  
ten feet from myself, possessor of nothing,  
uncomprehending of even the simplest particle of dust.  
But when I say, You are *like*  
a swamp-animal during an eclipse,  
I am happy, full of wisdom, loved by children  
and old men alike. I am sorry if this confuses you.  
During an eclipse the swamp-animal  
acts as though day were night,  
drinking when he should be sleeping, etc.  
This is why men stay up all night  
writing to you.