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## Is this a mantra? mantra of

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*Is this a mantra? mantra of*

Is this a mantra? mantra of  
dust—I don't know I  
don't know I don't know—mantra  
of the million times one says

*a million times.* My mother floated  
between us at the end like some  
island adrift, broken off  
the continent. And we kept alert

for sightings, stirrings, *any*  
*coming to* that might  
might might—another  
mantra we kept at each night,

returning to that house  
with her not in it.  
But she's not in the hospital either—  
my brother, so bluntly.