

Dark Ages

"The world is dark" you tell me.

If a human lifetime
were measured in minutes
rather than decades.

*"The world is dark. It has always
been dark."*

If we were each born,
reproduced,
committed all of our art
and infamy, in six
or eight minutes.

*"It has always been dark
for as long as anyone
can remember."*

If the longest-lived
of human empires,
had risen and declined
in less than an hour,

*"Dark, for as long as anyone
can remember. In school
they told us that we
must learn to find our way
in the darkness."*

And all of recorded history
has unraveled since
the last sunset.

*"In school they told us that we
must learn to find our way
in the darkness. You are a fool
to believe there is such a thing
as daylight."*

I would sit here still,
just as I do now,
calculating the length
of the night so far,
how long I might
have to wait before
we spy the first
glimmering of dawn.

Steve Bloom
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