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## Entropy

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## Entropy

*Michael Becker*

As entropy increases, the universe . . . tends naturally to deteriorate and lose distinctiveness, to move from the least to the most probable state, from a state of organization and differentiation in which distinctiveness and forms exist to a state of chaos and sameness. *Norbert Weiner*

Twenty-four hours a day  
Casino neon casts its light  
On crapshooting rooms where dies  
Of special manufacture  
Gallop on green felt as gray-cheeked  
Players pay homage to chance.

Only high tech's artifice  
Assures the exact randomness  
This business demands, die edges  
Calibrated to equality,  
Angles cut precise as diamonds,  
For a steady stream of numbers  
Of no particular pattern.

But in time, the sharp-edged bones  
Begin to wear. Certain figures come  
More frequently as organized form  
Deteriorates in the dice  
While crapshooting randomness  
Tends to a distinct pattern.

Order and chaos, grown too tired  
To fight, converse across the table  
Like an old married couple,  
Nibbling at one another's  
Rough edges, growing slowly  
To resemble what they feed upon.

But before this goes too far  
The croupier's ringed hand  
Plucks the decaying cubes  
From the table, brings forth  
A brand new, true pair,  
And commands the players shoot away  
Twenty-four hours a day.