

# Much To Do, 1

*Isabelita Orlina Reyes*

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My phone keeps perfect time, synced to a world  
clock, it tracks the whole day from one second  
to the next electronic beep, it stores  
a long list of chores, projects to finish,  
traffic to weave through, parking to fight for.  
Digital number, user name, I am  
connected to other people this way –  
the work binds me to the minute until  
I am a matter of time – and this way –  
I am the substance of things to do,  
find comfort in knowing these things were done,  
I did them, briefly, had minute purpose.  
Just not meaning, which is hard to come by,  
like joy, like a fresh young heart, elusive.

## Much to do, 2

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We happen in the details – work to do,  
bills to pay, errands to run. They're boring,  
mundane tasks, but not useless – they just don't  
make  
for interesting conversation. We breathe  
in SMS, phone calls, email. We move  
in the tediously unprofound, the minutiae  
that eat up hours – coffee spilled on crisp white  
shirts,  
leaky pipes, lost keys, traffic on EDSA.  
We're not in a movie, don't get to skip  
the bathroom stops, the supermarket aisle  
isn't setting for a brush with romantic  
fate, there's no orchestra in the background.  
We live in the everyday, thankful for friends,  
lucky if lovers divert our attention.