

Refrain to hold on to

***beginnings
that happen
in the middle
of things***

Refrain to hold on to

***making the most
of the hinge***

Refrain to hold on to

***start with
the small things,
while keeping
in mind
the big ones***

a little song, a nocturnal creation myth or 'sketch' in the middle [...]; it is not a genesis story of the logos and light, but a song of germination in darkness [...] I begin with it because doing so calls attention to the improvisational elements of any beginning, which always **happens in the middle of other things**.

Kara Keeling, *Queer Times, Black Futures*

Here, the surge as rhythm emerges from attempts to reach beyond the confines of limited places and routines, and yet retains a microscopic view of the constantly surprising details about the places that could be left behind. This is a rhythm of endurance, of surging forward and withdrawing. It is not a rhythm of endless becoming nor of staying put; it is **making the most of the "hinge,"** of knowing how to move and think through various angles while being fully aware of the constraints, the durability of those things that "are bad for us" (Stoler 2016).

AbdouMaliq Simone, *Improvised Lives*

Any 'archipelagic' thought is a trembling thinking, it is about not-presuming, but also about opening and sharing. We do not need to define a Federation of States first, or to install administrative and institutional orders. It already begins its work of entanglement everywhere, without being concerned with establishing preconditions. As far as our relations in the Archipelago are concerned, **let us start with the small things, while keeping in mind the big ones**.

Edouard Glissant, *Traité du tout monde*