

It's Relative

*Bob Poe*

Sometimes I see a bird go past;  
But then I wonder (you know me) —  
It seems it's moving very fast;  
But is it moving? Or are we?

If I were flying through the sky  
And saw the little bird below,  
Would it still blithely pass me by?  
Or would I see it backward go?

A tree is standing on the hill,  
Its roots fixed firmly in the ground;  
And yet, we know, while "standing still,"  
It goes each day the whole Earth round.

Twenty-five thousand miles per day.  
How much is that in miles per hour?  
A thousand miles per hour, you say?  
All with no motor and no power.

It's out, and back, and out again.  
Motion in circles is easy to track.  
Straight-line motion is harder to ken.  
Do I go forward, or it go back?

Can any object, anywhere  
Truly be judged to be "at rest"?  
For any object, do we dare  
Its speed or motion to attest?

We echo, then, Sir Isaac's creed:  
Absolute motion we cannot detect.  
Measuring "rest" and measuring "speed"  
Depends on the reference we select.

Newton's First Law

A body at rest or in uniform motion\*, not acted on by any net external force, will remain at rest or in uniform motion.

\*as measured relative to any other non-accelerated body.