Altered Perspectives

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Soon
Josh Mitchell.

Children were without a father for
Three months.
It may have been longer, but I’m not
At liberty to add up the moments for
Two weeks.
Soon, it will be finished.
Two clicks on the clock
Never more than two seasons.
My boy says three minutes
He doesn’t understand the journey yet
I don’t want him to feel
Two clicks on the clock.
It will be done,
Soon.

Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.”
--Soren Kierkegaard, Either/Or: A Fragment of Life

The universe according to Stephen Hawking
might be different if not for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. The Unified Field Theory
might still be lurking in his brain
behind a grocery list
and the directions to his girlfriend’s apartment.
Had his nerves not revolted and severed
brain from body
would he formulate a different cause and consequence;
an un-divine spark
that would create a cacophony
of pulpit-pounding denials?

ALS is Lou Gehrig’s Disease,
but Lou wasn’t one to take credit for things.
He left baseball because of it
and despite it
he was, “…the luckiest man alive.”
Perhaps.

What did he know?

He was the Iron Horse
and played and played
until he played himself out
of a game, a livelihood, a life.
Nevertheless, he passed his own Socratic examination. Satisfied, his understanding, complete.