

ISAAC'S EYE [EXCERPT]

ROBERT

Look. I didn't come out here to bring you down.
To make you feel like shit.
To take the wind out of your sails.
To make you think that everything you thought is wrong.
To make you feel like you shouldn't pursue a career in Natural Philosophy.
To make you feel like you should give up and be a farmer.
To make you feel like you've wasted your time.
To make you want to go out and take your papers and all your notes and toss them into a giant fire.
Watch them burn.

But what I am saying is that you should slow down, take your time, explore many different ideas,
and then maybe come back to us in 10 or even 20 years,
and then let's see what you've done.

ISAAC

You didn't ask me if I proved that light was made of particles.

ROBERT

Excuse me?

ISAAC

You assumed I didn't because my story didn't say anything about it.

ROBERT

... Alright. Did you prove it?

ISAAC

I proved it definitely for sure.

ROBERT

Then why didn't say that in your story?

ISAAC

I dunno. Guess I forgot.

ROBERT

Uh-huh.

ISAAC

I forgot.

ROBERT

And how did you prove it?

ISAAC

... It would be a big deal if I proved it, right? It would mean that what I'm working on is correct,

and what you're doing is wrong. That would be a big deal if what I'm doing -- I'm not sure if this is the right word – *surpasses* what you've done in the same field. Surpasses the work of someone so accomplished as yourself. That would be a big deal, right?

ROBERT

... I'm not sure I would use the word "surpass."

ISAAC

But would that be a big deal if I proved it?

ROBERT

... Yes.

(beat)

How did you prove it?

ISAAC

I put a needle in my eye.

ROBERT

Are you fucking with me?

ISAAC

I put a needle in my eye.

ROBERT

No you didn't.

ISAAC

No yeah I did. I slid it in right here...

(Points to his tear duct.)

ROBERT

You're fucking with me.

ISAAC

That was the test. I put it in the tear duct.

ROBERT

How's that a test?

ISAAC

... Are you saying that you don't understand the test?

(beat)

If you understood the test, you'd know I wasn't messing with you.

ROBERT

I understand the test.

ISAAC

Good.

(Very LONG PAUSE, as ROBERT tries "get" the test.)

If there are colors in light. If all colors are in light.
And if light is particles, then how those particles hit the eye, make the colors you see.
But if how the particles hit the eye changes, then the colors would change.
Stick a needle in your eye and bend the eye with the needle
so like you're squishing the eyeball with the needle

ROBERT

Yeah...

ISAAC

That changes the shape of the eye and then that changes how the particles hit the eye. So if you change the shape of the eye and the colors you see change, then light must be made of particles. And when I did it, the colors changed. Light is made of particles, end of story.

ROBERT

You didn't do that.

ISAAC

I did.

ROBERT

How did you not pop your eye?

ISAAC

I was careful.

ROBERT

Bullshit.

ISAAC

Don't believe me, do it yourself.

ROBERT

...I have no problem doing the experiment myself.

ISAAC

Then do it. Look. Here's a needle.

(correction)

Here's *the* needle. The one I did it with.

(ISAAC hands ROBERT the needle.)

I did my work. I did my experiment, and because I did my experiment, I showed that light might be, could be made up of particles.

[END OF EXCERPT]