

The background image shows the interior of an ancient Egyptian temple. The walls are covered in intricate hieroglyphs and carvings of deities and figures. A person in a white robe is visible in the distance, standing in a brightly lit area. The overall atmosphere is one of historical mystery and discovery.

DISCOVERING YOUR CONTINENT

Writing Game

A photograph of a snowy mountain peak, likely Mount Everest, with a grid overlay. The text is centered on the grid.

Imagine a door. It could be a door in your own home, or room, or a door in a library or in a wilderness.

Close your eyes and visualize this door.

Write a few lines of prose or poetry describing it.



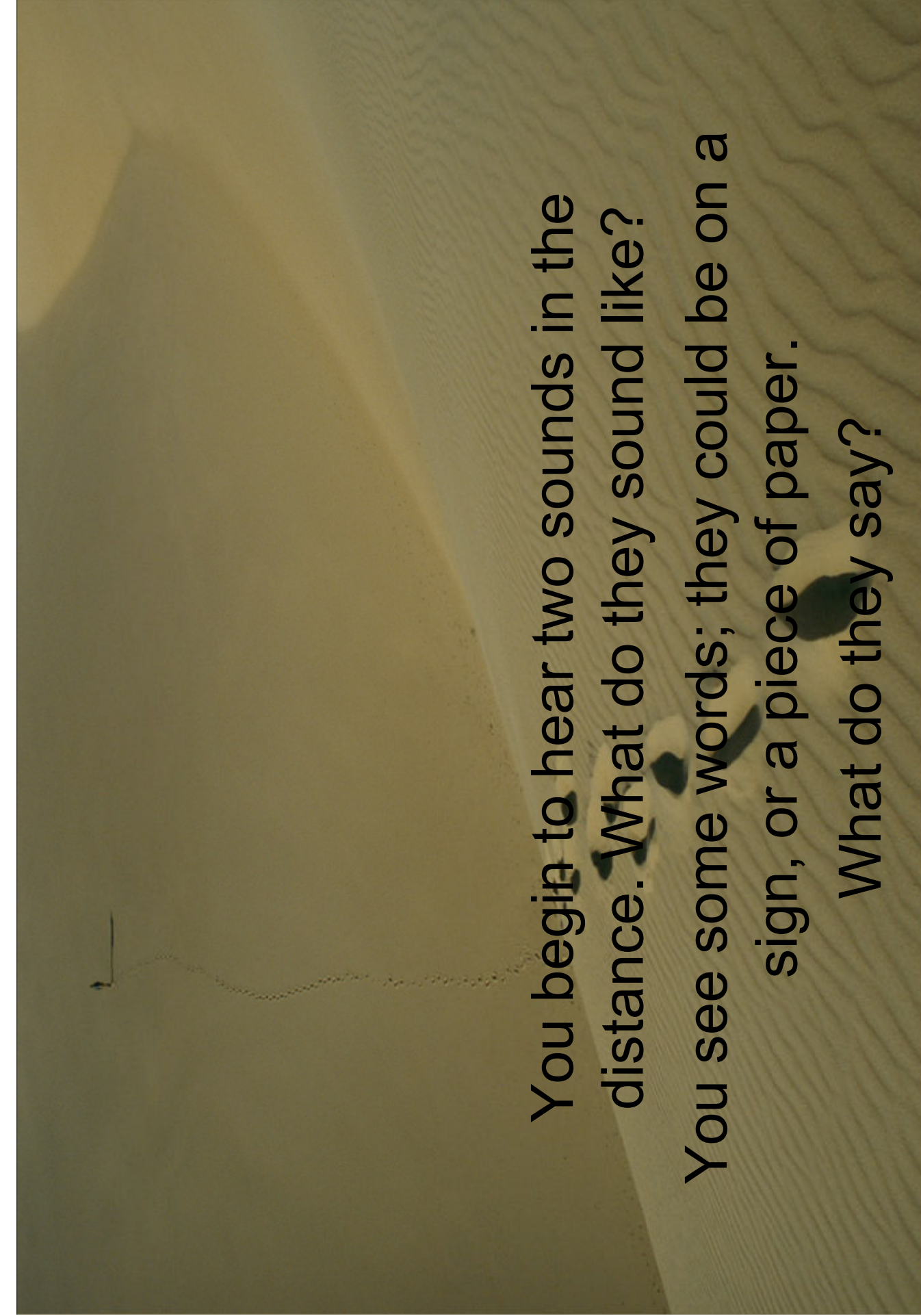
What does the surface and the handle look like (use simile or metaphor)?

In your mind's eye, open that door. What does the handle feel like?

You step through. You have passed through
a door in time and space.

In front of you is a land you do not know.
What are the first three things you notice,
and what do they look like or even smell
like?

Now describe what is under your feet.



You begin to hear two sounds in the distance. What do they sound like?


You see some words; they could be on a sign, or a piece of paper.

What do they say?

A photograph of a vast, golden sand dune under a clear sky. A person is standing on the dune, looking out over the horizon. The dune is smooth and undulating, with a small ripple in the sand near the person. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

What is the weather? Imagine this is part of a continent. Nobody knows about it except you – for now.

You begin to explore the space around you. Write ten sentences or ten lines describing this exploration.



Then you meet somebody. It could be
somebody you know well, or somebody
quite new.

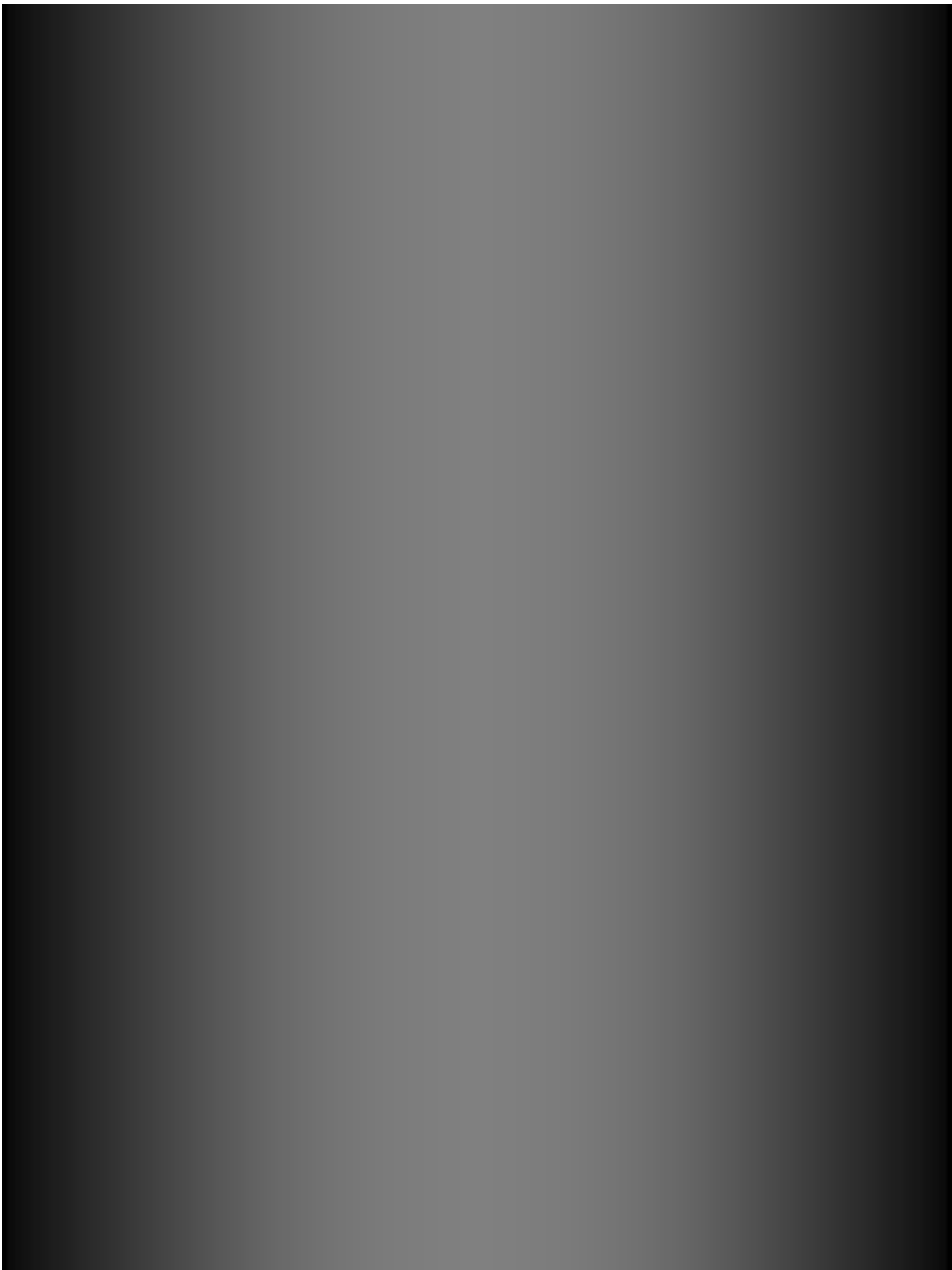


They say something to you.
What do they say?



You answer. What do you say?

Use another ten sentences or ten lines to
finish this writing.



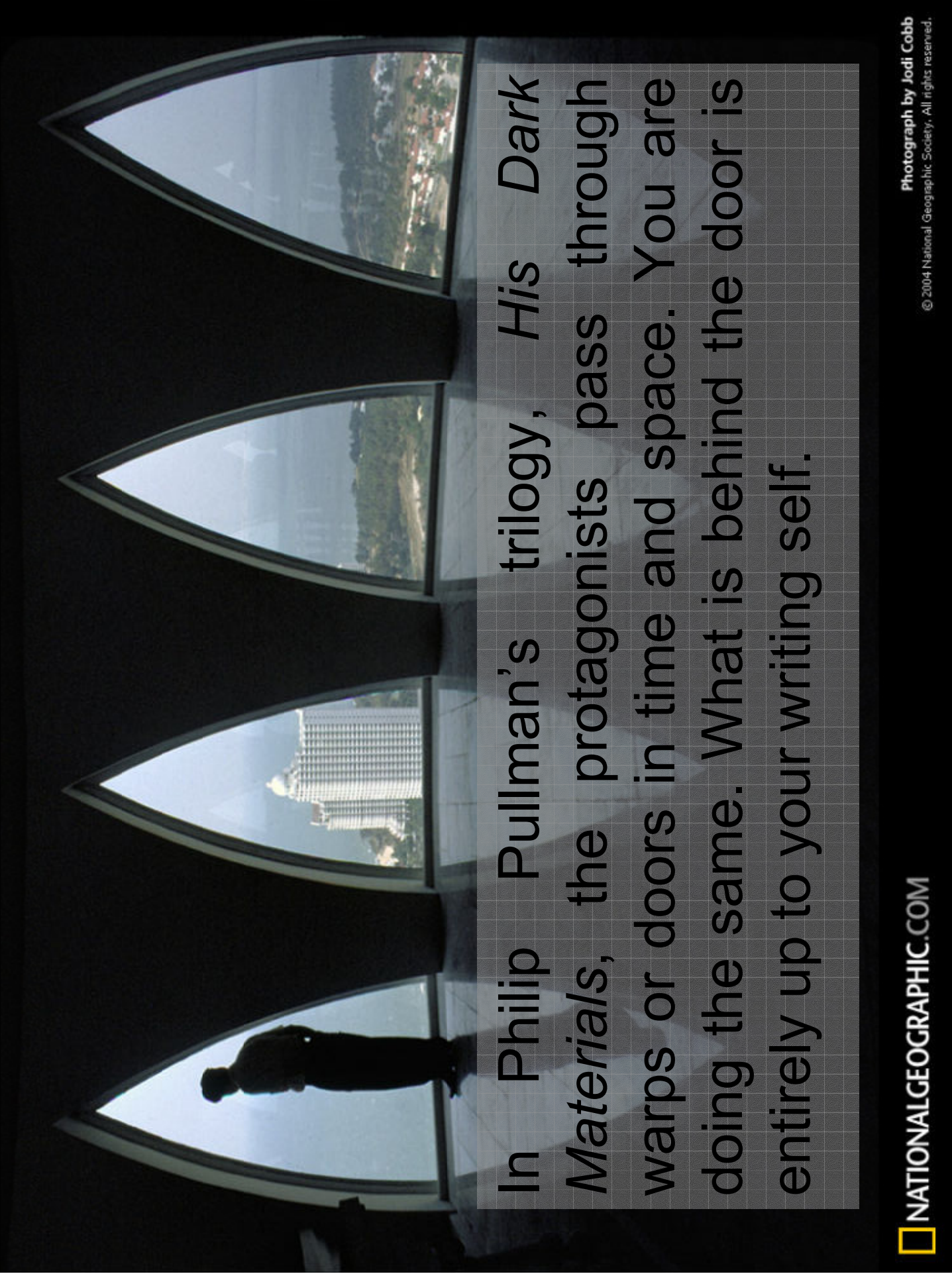


Then put it away for some days, after which
revise it completely into a short story or
poem.


The AIM

We are making a new poem or story created from a combination of a dream-state and a prompted imagination using a method somewhat like self-hypnosis.

It is a good idea to try these questions on yourself regularly, writing with your eyes closed while you are visualizing the images in your mind's eye. Be sure to alter the part of the continent each time you try this.

A person is silhouetted against the leftmost of four large, arched windows. The windows offer a panoramic view of a city with a prominent skyscraper and a body of water in the distance. The scene is captured in a high-contrast, low-key style, with the interior being dark and the exterior view through the windows being bright and clear.

In Philip Pullman's trilogy, *His Dark Materials*, the protagonists pass through warps or doors in time and space. You are doing the same. What is behind the door is entirely up to your writing self.



How far you wish to go is also up to you, but try to go a little bit further every time, and spend more time beyond that door. Learn the entrances, exits, contours, cities and citizens of your continent of writing.

