

The oldest public record of Black death in the state of Arizona regards an unidentified male lost to exposure. Depending on the year, the skin may have remained, though thin. Found in dry orchards, out of season. Among cotton. Saguaro picked by birds. Exposure is also the revelation of an identity or fact. State of being exposed to contact with something else, even when making very little noise. The brutality of thick air and money. Mythos and disgust for what is fleshy yet unuseful. Of the raw resources necessary to maintain life which may be commodified, water distinguishes itself through ease of portability. Along the edge of Pinal County immigrants discard what they no longer need. And or what might identify them as such. Shoes the texture of sea anemones. Black bottles to hold water without reflecting light. Someone placed a child's weathered skull at the base of a cairn in order to be seen.

From the National Archive, African American cavalry enter a corral. In Fort Hauchuca the sun burns highlights onto the buttocks of their mounts. Corrugated steel. Shadows stark against sand. Negative No. 501 awaits rebirth through silver and light. The hands of an archivist, tired stains beneath his nails. Projection takes many forms. Some, too dense to exit the mind, gestate through organs. Groaning. Heaving with yellowed phlegm. Chosen for its hills and perennial stream, Hauchuca was controlled against Geronimo until 1886 when inflammation took his lungs. It re-emerged as leader in Electronic Warfare and Combat Surveillance in 1954. Through this and now the sycamore shade yucca. Violet-crowned hummingbirds share sky-islands with the lesser long-nosed bat, each protected by a research conservancy and the Army's Management Command. The projections also recede. A rose-bellied trogon returns to his copper eye. Wool-head mammal, beaten wildly, flesh torn. The horse, too, continues backward, splendid abscess claiming its mouth.

Light first enters the Sonoran desert at Sinaloa. Wraps it over the northern gulf where life includes endangered horned lizards that can fit in the palm of one's hand. Once plentiful in North America, the species is threatened through predation by domestic dogs, and the displacement of compatible prey. Among known understandings of Natural Life in the United States, is the sentence. As in, for the rest of one's natural life, which, unlike the sentence of Life, does not imply or otherwise allow for the possibility of parole, which was anyway discontinued within Arizona in 1993, when the possibility of parole was replaced with that of release, a process which remains judicially vague. Today, due to imprecise and or incorrect language during hearings that occurred after 1994, hundreds of people serve time toward parole hearings that will never exist.

Insofar as a sentence is a set of words complete unto itself, every sentence holds its conclusion. It's unique termination of a period of time. Soft purple signals the end of night in southern Arizona, against which, cliffed mountains silhouette into view. Tree frogs retreat in the depth of winter. Their bodies appear lifeless, as do Gall Moths, which avoid internal freezing by emptying their guts.