

Absence

I asked a friend,
“Can you feel what isn’t there?”
“Of course not,” he said.
My friend is sharp. Scientific.

“Think of it this way,” he continued.
“You can’t project darkness.
There’s no such thing as a flash-dark, only a flash-light.
Ice doesn’t radiate cold,
What you sense is the absence of heat.”

So now I understand
this pain I feel
like the ache of a severed limb
isn’t because you’re gone.