

Donuts
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For years, the thought that active galactic nuclei
might just mean a change of perspective
has existed in the same flux state as
dust settling onto the cold paper cup of coffee,
dust sugaring the torus of a supermassive black hole.

On the telescope it looks at first
like a glazed Krispy Kreme,
and the scientist behind the lens
chuckles for a moment before it
dawns on him what he has found.

With shaking breath, he tells his colleague
and she cannot believe her eyes.
Hypothesis embodied,
the world proving itself in
tested accuracy and rising dough.

Yes, there it is: a compact gaseous structure
resembling a gigantic donut
surrounding a supermassive black hole.

The scientist thinks of the argument he had
with his daughter on Friday
about object permanence.
He will have to admit he was wrong:
The world does exist even when we aren't looking.