

**IF**

**An Ode to  
Data Control**



**If you can keep your data when all about you**

*Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;*

**If you can trust your metrics when analysts doubt you,**

*But make allowance for their doubting too:*

**If you can query and not be tired by waiting,**

*Or building models, adjust for outliers,*

**Define ETL modules that are self-validating,**

*And require contracts from data suppliers;*



**If you can report — and not make KPIs your master;**

*If you can forecast — and not make compliance your aim,*

**If you can make the overnight batch faster**

*And ensure the end results are just the same:*

**If you can't bear two versions of truth spoken**

*Produced by silos to make a trap for fools,*

**Or watch systems you gave your life to, broken,**

*And stoop and build 'em up with off-the-shelf tools;*



**If you would make one lake with all your data**

*And risk it on one vendor's big bang plan,*

**And lose, and start again at invitation-to-tender**

*And salvage from the project, what you can:*

**If you can force your flat files and mainframe**

*To serve datamarts when key DBAs retire,*

**And so hold on when stakeholders proclaim**

*Why (oh why) is our Data Quality so dire?*



**If you can talk with architects and keep your virtue,**  
*Or walk with CEOs — nor lose the accounting touch,*

**If neither UTF-8 nor PII can hurt you,**  
*If all teams count with you, but none too much:*

**If you can keep Data Owners beholden**  
*To uploads that are timely and accurate and whole,*

**Yours is the Earth and clean records (golden),**  
*And—which is more—you'll have Data Control!*



<https://datacontroller.io>