

live before you die

cross the line
and be extreme
talk to strangers
break routine

wear your mask
inside out
show your contrast
in the crowd

spread yourself
but not too thin
play the game
but not to win

spill your coffee
leave a stain
take the detour
miss your train

spread your sails
and leave port
stand up tall
and rock that boat

speaking the truth
of the unspoken
silence is
not always golden

take that risk
and love too deep
don't examine
every leap

free your senses

and create
use that fear
make mistakes

tried and failed?
brace the weather
fail again
but fail better

push your luck
climb that fence
take up space
and be immense

leave your boundaries
undefined
ask a question
change your mind

push your limit
be a fool
bite off more
than you can chew

leave your house
without a plan
don't finish
what you began

eat dessert
before your lunch
make decisions
on a hunch

stop and stare
investigate
intervene
don't hesitate

swim upstream
and test yourself
learn the rules
to break them well

if there's one thing
you've gotta try
it is to live
before you die

so be the one
among the few
to have your cake
and eat it too

~~

let it be us

let it be us
who understand that opportunity is neither forever
nor instant
that if not now, then when?
when is the best possible time to abolish the fear of
impotence and impossibility
and if not us, then who?
who are the best people that can awaken from the illusion
that we are separate and alone
that we are confined by a system that has adopted us without our permission
and that we cannot rise until it falls
well let it be us who say "it can be done"
bring out the optimists
invite the strangers
let us illuminate the unexamined corners of possibility
loosen our reserves of creativity
and learn from the stifled voices of our history
let every act of civil disobedience
be more than a contagious trend of self-appraisal
and let us stand behind every protest
with more than a day's worth of good intentions.
every purchase is a vote
so cast your vote with your whole body

be individually motivated but collectively deployed
and when motivation is drowned out by the comfort of routine
let us remember that true peace is not merely the absence of war
but the building of institutions that allow people to be human
kindness is a virtue
let us give more than we ever got
visit the lonely
encourage the young
comfort the old
remind them that the weight doesn't rest solely on their shoulders
that the feeling of powerlessness and inaptitude is the most crippling disability
and it can be changed
among our endless daily transactions let us make one collective bargain
that our dreams are not negotiable
let it be us who keep our personal morality in an age of immoral bureaucracy
who stand up and speak up,
who initiate and demonstrate that we can all live better
be better
our minds have not been colonized without our consent
so let it be us who accept responsibility
because whether you lean to the left, the right, or neither
our common politics should be
that private morality has public consequences
don't be disillusioned by the dichotomy of choice
and question not only what is present but
also what is absent
be both reactionary and radical
let it be us that emancipate ourselves from containment and discipline
who agitate
and create
let our creations be more than a desperate wish for imagination
without insight
let us break free from our sterile grounds
and realize that the pandemic of corporate interests
cannot be fought from the shadows
let it be voiced
let it be now
and let it be you

~~

please take a number

please take a number
and wait for your number

to be called
wait for your numb
ness
to be summoned
from a seat
in a waiting room full of consecutive
numbness
we thank you for your patience
as everyone here will be simplified
reduced
and deciphered
ultimately
de
pressed
re
pressed
and
o
pressed by the numb
and their numbers
and sometimes
decimated
by their decimals
and if you survive that
go ahead and fill out this form
in binary code
and assemble yourself here
in this linear democratic delay
and the first available representative
will be with you shortly
with their efficient impersonality
he or she will take your numb
er
and leave you with your numb
ness
when they calculate
exactly what you've been thinking
for the past number of hours
and they say
I'm sorry, it seems that you are not qualified
to be quantified

~~

trespassing

perhaps it is
that in the natural habitat
of self-expression
we forget to heed the warning:
“do not lean over the edge of the world”
and so we trespass

and when two eyes close
a third one opens
it seeks not the destination
the completed
the applause
it thrives only for the movement
the tidal dance of color and word,
bursting through skin
the veins dangerously swollen
with expression

these are the dreams from which
we never wake
our souls dangling there
over the edge
in the hands
that hold us
without touching

~~

the other half

everyone wants to be completed
by their other half
they say sometimes it takes years of

searching
until you find that person
to make you whole.
they say, some never find it.

in each search of my other half
i always found it.
the streets are full of halves
grabbing your attention with their

halfwitted remarks
and halfhearted attempts of
pretending to have a firm grasp
and a full understanding
of who you are
and which half you should be
the ones who consider that extra inch
past halfway
as a great sacrifice to be made
and developed a worldview
of splitting their verdicts in two
the left and the right
the black and the white
and have enough love to give you
as long as you're taking their side.
they live halfway
short of being complete
looking to fill
those asymmetric needs
by splitting their integrity
in dichotomies of
who they're trying to please
so you see,
a half is easy to find
and easy to be.

and when you stop needing a half
you stop being a half
you need only to acknowledge yourself
entirely
fully
and completely enough
to meet a whole.