

## *listening*

The voice boomed  
Go unto the woods  
Go unto the woods from whence you came  
Who was I to disobey?  
Who was I to say any different?  
Who was I to think that I knew best?  
Go unto the woods  
Go unto the woods once again  
There, is what you are  
Go unto the woods and there you'll be  
Present beneath it all  
Outside the breadth of human achievement

I trusted the voice...  
To the woods I ran  
I flew  
Once again, there I was

A lot will come  
Off it'll go  
Let it flow

Flow like the ice  
Float like the snow  
Gleam like the moon lighting it all

You are the water  
The sturdy oaks  
The protective pines  
The bright sunflower shining  
And the light flowery dogwoods

Every single piece  
That's where you'll find yourself  
They can teach so much  
They've been playing much longer—

Listen to the birds, trees, water, and wind  
Listen to the crickets, birds, bees.  
and the hum of humidity mixed with summer sun  
Most of all listen to the silence between it all—  
Listen to the hum  
Kid—one thing ya gotta understand  
Nature knows no bounds.

## *pearly whites*

The morning sky that sets the world ablaze  
Giving life to the space  
Waking people out of the slumber  
Another moment to see  
the silver lining of being  
All while effortlessly standing in grace

Starting of the spring season  
Light, airy, frugal, and coolly  
being grounded in its brilliant purpose  
Have you ever seen a flower  
curl open in the mid-morning May?  
A beauty sharing to the world  
Adding to the world, adding to the magic  
Exclaiming to the world  
“beauty is not dead!”  
“there’s more to be seen!”  
“there’s more to give!”  
Giving people hope

Sometimes I don’t know if these words land  
But let’s carry it further  
A certain warmth found, to be reveled in  
How do you watch a sunset once the blizzard has come to pass?  
Do you give it any thought?  
Are you dumbfounded?  
Mesmerized?  
What is there?  
That stops almost anyone in their tracks to peer?  
Allowing the tenderness to seep in  
Do butterflies flutter their wings  
When they’re feeling shy?

Enough of the clichés  
Sights like these are what give living,  
Life  
Warm smiles open up hearts  
They are the stone thrown into the pond  
Happiness for strangers  
All while being...

They access an experience  
Cynics would shout has been lost  
I can attest that beauty still exists in this world

It landed in my lap—oh so slyly  
But from my heart to yours  
From you to I, and I to you  
Your smile is honest and golden  
Such is the morning sky

## *free falling*

Diving

Let's fly to the bottom of this well

A pot of gold sits

Shining brilliantly in the muck

Help pull this rope

A little harder now, a little faster

Heave—

A little bit of work

Will polish a diamond

Waiting patiently

As a dog waits for his meal

Looking for the moment to extend

Extend and expand

Expanding and contracting to

Minuscule moments of majestic murk

This world shrinks

To this here

Take a look and see

Let's dive deep and see where we land

A magical land

Many don't travel here

Some fear for their lives

Terrified that in the murk

The reflection of them self stands

Others thrive like a plant

Thrown in a new pot

Roots, space, freedom

The spaciousness of growth

Many don't know this path

Many have only heard in tales

The key's within the well—

That you are

This world is spacious with you

Hold my hand as we dive

## *arrival*

You know the kid that hasn't been to the playground  
He's the one that's a little unsure of himself  
A little off balance  
A little terrified, frightened  
But completely enthralled to be where he is  
Running straight to where he's heading

He always had the playground in his sights  
At times he didn't know it  
Other times he knew it but  
Didn't realize he was moving towards it  
At times tripping, tumbling down,  
All the while jumping up  
As if falling was the only way to keep moving

He arrived –  
What do you want to do first  
Monkey bars sound good, there's a sight to be seen  
From these heights you'd see the danger and make the jump  
Maybe take a slide?  
If you want to know how,  
Two can become one in a moment

Scrape your knee  
Bruise your shin  
Cut your lip  
But dammit keep playing  
The playgrounds dangerous but full of magic  
If ya know how to navigate it

You ever seen that kid –  
Beaming from ear to ear  
Loving where he was, loving where he is—  
as he's walking home from the playground?

## *soap on the tongue*

Well I have many quandaries  
With the world  
No with myself

My life floats on them  
Just as the leaves float in the fall air  
Knowing that soon they will come to rest  
Right where they land

They are what keep me alive  
The life blood of a misinformed youth  
I am defined by them

These quandaries fuel the anger  
Throwing gas on the equivocal fires  
Salting the wounds  
Stinging everyday  
I am mad

It's all an invitation into the depths  
Of who you are  
Are these mine or are they the worlds  
What's the purpose of chasing these questions  
When at the end of the day I am alive

I am the rain, I am the sun and the wind  
Yet I constrain myself to these worldly misgivings  
Why do we do this  
Why are we angry  
What is this sadness  
The meaning behind it all?

I have lived and I have died again  
I have cried and I have sinned  
These are miraculous movements mirroring  
Minor imperfections  
Have you ever seen a fox crawl out its den  
Why you ask  
Does it not crawl out to live?