

safe at high speeds/

1.

micropolitan:
*Alpha to
megabyte*

downsize quantity
maximum exposure
at minimal risk -
small windows
miss big picture.

deaf & dumb
rent-a-friend,
smiley laughs
at your jokes -
stupid expressions
cut to ribbons
spontaneity's
forced smile.

jailbirds tweet
reduced sentences
run consecutively,
trend phrases
chirped shorthand.

conjugal visits
connect flights;
webbed hands
extend wingspan
safely grounded.

2.

Avatar snapshots
calendar quotes,
counterfeit lives
as paper tigers.

comic book culture
superhuman feats;
the safety net
in live wire acts.

virtual vultures -
balding brains
& weak knees
claw at own
frustrations.

canary cockfights
yellow vengeance:
short serves
& backhand
returns
net volley;

tweety birds
peck each
other's birdcage -
let cat out of bag
devour themselves.

3.

Revolutions
wheel thought
de-evolution's
revolt reverse,
starting fires
from smoke
choke on
intervention;

democratic
divide
fast lane
word works
pool haves/
have-nots;

plenty of
words for
everyone,
just not
anybody;

free speech
intoxication:
lower standard
grants reprieve
of conviction
like convicts
at open bars -

democracy's
suicide express
murder ideas
whose tyrants
take no prisoners
but execute them.

life's bitch/

new dresses
old habit -
today's flash
yesterday's
news.

whether trains
railroaded
horse & buggy,
television
flipped off radio
or laptop cafes
plugged
conversations,
all generations
feel like the last
once gallop
saddles age.

recycled eras:
"modern"
"best"
"good ol' days"
new polish rubs
old shine -
mankind's
giant leap over
slower strides;
footsteps like
small print
walk with
less bounce.

one's story
is old copy:
your life as the
time's exclusive.
contemporaries
peddle progress
before renewed
cynicism mock
late arrivals:
sporadic spasms
chicken and egg.

hardest wait
is doing time -
every free lunch
wants change;

the quiet resolve
nobility defeats:
balance debt
paid in full.

P.S.

anonymous future
endangers past
whom investment
presently stocks
runs into time
looking back.

memories envision
life as imagined -
the king's ransom
fortune reversed.

left to the right/

prologue

sense of purpose
defeats us early
starting at ends,
fear being left
to ourselves;
envy's the
only revolution -
higher order than
an inferior peace.

1st. (*a promising past*)

Eden's uphill,
peeks over
valley -
free rides
for peace:
goodwill travels
but war's home.

bridge gap by
human toll -
blueprint of
collective share
in equal parts
diagrams well.

extinction's
open season
where man's
game -
nature's
shifty gears
exhaust fuel;
oil and vigor
set table for
fewer guests.

vehicles overheat
small parts -
singular causes
teeter on edge,
passengers
top heavy
driver's seat.

2nd. (*an advanced future*)

eden's over
the hill,
peeks from
valley –
toll rides
for peace:
war travels so
goodwill stays
home.

bridge gap
between
teeth –
adam's apple
gulps bigger
bite of share
as equality
slips off
ladders.

extinction
opens season
on man –
nature's hand
shifts gears
automatically,
carves largest
portion at table.

causes overheat
effect -
vehicles lighten
excess baggage,
pick up speed:
man drives
left handed
on right side
driver's seat.

epilogue

future lags
behind past
who prospers
looking ahead
asking change;
choice is only
the inevitable:
hunger in living
at the bottom of
an empty promise.

II. *excuse me, sir...I have Greece on the line, will you hold?
or the inability to categorize a poem in a forum*

form? [the list was this _____ big]

"I don't know...it's a poem"

It's free form, all styles welcomed and encouraged; as long as it adheres to 10 point Oxford [I told them I wear 11½]

description (optional) [why even read it?]

category? [the list was *this* _____ big]

[included were sub-categories I didn't know existed. "what kind of insect?" - ants, spiders, caterpillars and so on...]

I said, "just put down _unknown"

responded, "too vague"

"NO CONTEST WITHOUT CATEGORY! [I worried this would end up in Hallmark]
THINK OF AN OCCASION THAT BEST SUITS THE POEM!"

I interject, "Enigmatic!" [apparently, ambiguity is not welcomed nor encouraged]

inquisitor: "what?...how?"

agnostic: "I don't know" [so now I have 2 "I don't knows": one for form, one for category - which is also not acceptable]

inquisitor: "why don't you know?"

agnostic: "it's a mystery to me" [humor optional]

"you have to choose an established category! we can let the 1st 'I don't know' go"

"I don't know" [I can't help it, I'm just the messenger]

"well, you can't be in the contest"

"okay"

Operator: "excuse me, sir...I have Greece on the line...will you accept?"

exiled poet: "yes, please!"

"I will connect you, sir, please hold"

[pause] *"I'm sorry, sir...this is a collect call"*

[so I hung up].

afterword

(to have and have not)

playing
someone
else's part
liberated
strengths
I had courage
to play myself.

fiction's
certified copy
documents
my life as art -
masterpiece
of unfulfilled
expression
silently
impressed.

originals forge
signature
unsigned -
ambition's
failure to
remain
anonymous
defeat wars
won than lost.

words write
themselves:
unstrung
deliriums
familiarily calm
lighten clouds
that storm
every stage
clarity doubts;

conversations
in shorthand -
speaking for
oneself
freedom inspires
nothing else:

the successful regret
having failed so well.