

A Series of Moments

*a book of poems
by Willie Watson*

The poems in this collection may not be copied or reproduced
in any way without the permission of the copyright holder.

Copyright © Willie Watson, 2026

Published in 2026
Prague, Czech Republic

also by Willie Watson:

The Best of Willie Watson's Poetry

The Creation of the Noosphere

This Book Contains Bad Language

Nice and Spicy

Recycling

Dark

Possibly the Shallowest, Most Pointless, Irrelevant,
and Trivial Book of Poetry Ever Written

Circle of Happiness

Diamonds on Uranus

Sentience

A Country's Just a Place

Everyday's a Butterfly

Cup of Tea

The Quest for Enlightenment and Stuff

Paradox

Wild Pigs of Fukushima

The Meaning of Life in Easy English

Geology

Pink Snow

155 Sonnets

Uncle Willie's Very Silly Animal Poems

The This of the That

Tarot Poems (with Marie Brožová)

The Alchemist's Notebook

Four Syllables on Water

The Guru Kalehuru and Other Poems

Poems from Prague

Thanks to pixabay.com/qimono for the cover photo

Table of Contents

Introduction	p. 7
A series of Moments	p. 9
Mezinárodní Den Zen	p. 10
Immortality	p. 11
Wasted Hours	p. 11
Let the Cat Out of the Bag	p. 12
Winds of Pandemonium	p. 13
Barometer of Bliss	p. 14
Golden Era	p. 15
Doomed from the Start	p. 16
The Great Unknown	p. 16
Our Limited Role	p. 17
Prague to Athens, December, 2025	p. 18
A Poetic Revelation	p. 18
Not a Bad Analogy	p. 19
Going Beyond	p. 20
Sleep Mantra	p. 21
Time is the Thing We Measure	p. 22
Toward a Better World	p. 23
Censorship	p. 24
Picture Window	p. 25
I'm All Right, Jack	p. 26
Big Tent	p. 27
Atheist Liberation	p. 28
A Common Occurrence	p. 29
Never Ending View	p. 29
Collective Enlightenment	p. 30
Mercury in Retrograde	p. 31
Beginnings	p. 32
For Tatiana Schlossberg	p. 33
Venezuelanalysis	p. 34
Witches	p. 35

Body and Mind	p. 36
Naked Tree	p. 40
Can't Complain	p. 41
Rogue Freaks	p. 42
Frustration Grows on Capitol Hill	p. 43
Critical Ability	p. 44
Better than the Alternative	p. 45
I Climbed the Mountain	p. 46
Our Responsibility to the Universe	p. 47
Just Like Everyone Else	p. 49
The Big Self-Own	p. 50
War Crimes	p. 51
In Memory of Charlie Kirk	p. 52
Celestial Disappointment	p. 52
Obvious Things	p. 53
Greater Forces	p. 54
Piece of Work	p. 54
Irony	p. 55
Fermi's Paradox, Explained	p. 56
In Response to an Online Poet named Donna	p. 57
If There is no God	p. 58
Dear Jewish People	p. 59
Progress	p. 60
For Virginia Giuffre	p. 60
If Only...	p. 61
Shakespeare and Me	p. 62
Water is Free	p. 63
The Peak of the Coaster	p. 64
Times of Rage	p. 65
Karma	p. 66
Couch-22	p. 66
The Dream	p. 67
Healthy Skepticism	p. 68
Sweeteners	p. 69

Infinite Regression	p. 69
Three Monkeys	p. 70
If Everybody Was Nice	p. 71
Gaza	p. 72
Sexual Electricity	p. 73
Why Night is Greater than Day	p. 74
View From the Train	p. 75
Poetic License	p. 75
Follow Me	p. 76
The Colors of Poetry	p. 77
Beautiful You	p. 79
Together	p. 80
Back to Basics	p. 81
The Foreign Land	p. 82
Ontario	p. 82
Dilemma	p. 83
Your Choice	p. 83
Spring the First	p. 84
If I Were There	p. 85
Your Opinion is as Valid as Your Experience	p. 85
Our Own Fault	p. 86
The Problem with Democracy	p. 87
Which Way Now?	p. 88
Hooray for Reality!	p. 89
Drama	p. 90
Small Words	p. 91
The Eternal Intergenerational Conflict	p. 91
Is it Vincent or is it AI?	p. 92
Anthem War	p. 92
Day and Night	p. 93
Rain in the City	p. 94
AI or Barcelona?	p. 95
It's Not a Law	p. 96
Skewed Perception	p. 96

Happy Revolution!	p. 97
The Beauty of Diversity	p. 98
The Great Unknown	p. 99
World of Indoctrination	p. 100
Class Envy	p. 101
You're Normal	p. 102
The Race of the Sperm	p. 103
Infinity	p. 104
Watching the People Watch the Animals	p. 105
Awe	p. 106
Tiny	p. 107
A Picture Within a Picture	p. 108
What is Seen Can't be Unseen	p. 109
Same Moon	p. 111
Hope Springs	p. 112
Poem of the Day	p. 113
When I am Among the Trees	p. 114
In the Future, Far Away	p. 115

Introduction

Last summer, that is, the summer of 2025, I put together a book of my collected poetry from the last quarter of a century, and titled it, rather unimaginatively, *The Best of Wille Watson's Poetry*. It was a pretty awesome collection if I do say so myself, and of course I do. The problem is, where do I go from there? Well, I keep on writing poems, I guess, and now, once again, I have collected enough for another book. The title, *A Series of Moments*, is also the title of the first poem. It was one of those poems that actually changed me in the writing of it, and that's one of the things I love best about writing poetry.

There are, I'm sure the reader will note, an above average number of political poems, and I'm well aware that those can be problematic. There are a couple of problems with political poetry. First, not everybody shares the same opinions. Second, and more importantly by far, as I don't intend to limit my poetry just because some people disagree with me, is that it's usually not a timeless message. There are a couple of poems in here about people or events most people, even now, have already forgotten.

But, this has been a political year, and the surprise is not that I write so many political poems, but that other people don't. The world is turning to shit right in front of our eyes, the rich are no longer even discreet about fucking over the poor, nations show no inclination of abandoning war, civilians are being massacred every day in the biggest genocide since 1945, and the Fascists are in control of the U.S. and far too many other countries.

Peace and Freedom are important to me, so if

there are about a million poems in here about the genocide being committed by Israel, so be it. Believe it or not, I left a few of them out.

The book also contains poems about the purpose and meaning of our lives, love, how technology is affecting our culture, the ever increasing generation gap and my own concerns about aging, nature, the Gaian hypothesis, atheism and, of course, poetry itself. Much like politics and current events, I do not consider it the most important subject for poetry to address, it's a bit self-serving and not all that interesting to the reading public, but I write what comes to mind and there you have it. Or rather, here you have it. Enjoy reading. Free Palestine!

Willie Watson
Prague, 2026

P.S. as always, many thanks to my wife, Helena, without whom this book would not be possible.

A Series of Moments

**Life is a series of moments
and every moment is now
There are things that we have to deal with
and we have to figure out how
To stop and see the whole pattern
of the grand, celestial plan
sounds like quite a nice idea
but there's never a time when we can
We don't know what is coming up
or what's around the next bend
and we'll never know what's happening
until the very end
...if even then**

Mezinárodní Den Zen

**Hooray for all the ladies!
You hold up half the sky!
Without you, it wouldn't be half as much
fun to be a guy**

**It's International Women's Day,
Mezinárodní Den Zen
a day when you all get flowers and such
from all of us useless men**

**It's a day of appreciation
as per the calendrical plan
but tomorrow we're back to normal
so, enjoy it while you can!**

Immortality

**I wanted to write something
that would last for a thousand years
and this is it, I guess
unless the internet disappears**

Wasted Hours

**The hours and hours I waste while scrolling
are hours I used to waste watching TV
if we were productive 24/7
oh, what a nightmare world it would be**

Let the Cat Out of the Bag

**Let's let the cat out of the bag
Let the chips fall where they may
the world can't get much more screwed up
than it already is anyway**

**Let's open the Overton Window
Let's turn on all of the lights
and watch as the cockroaches scramble away
trying to get out of sight**

**Let's put all our cards on the table
bluffing does no one no good
cheaters never prosper, or, at least
they never should**

**Let us open Pandora's box
let all the demons out
and maybe at last we will finally learn
what it's always been about**

**Release the feline from the sack!
some people will get mad
but that, itself, is the reason of course
because those are the ones who are bad**

Winds of Pandemonium

**The evidence is mounting
there is really no accounting for
those who would deny what can
be seen with our own eyes
Video and audio
of screaming babies, terrified
even if we look away
we still can hear them cry
The world is filled with bitter,
racist, genocidal fascists
who are only happy when
attacking other folks
The comment threads will all descend
to ultimate banality
with cruel and stupid people
making cruel and stupid jokes
The winds of pandemonium
are blowing like a hurricane
there is no individual
who can withstand its force
We are splintered into factions
there are actions and reactions
but the power's been unleashed
and there's no way to change its course
The winds of pandemonium
are circling the planet
and if it carries on this way
we all are going to die
The world that we are living in
is clearly unacceptable
I don't know how to change it
but I know we have to try**

Barometer of Bliss

It's the point of being human
it's the reason we exist
it's the spark of pro-creation
the barometer of bliss
In the air that's all around us
and we're thrilled when it has found us
and we're saddened when it leaves us
everybody knows its worth
It's the very first impression
that we have in this sweet lifetime
as everybody's smiling at
the moment of our birth
and then the world keeps turning
and the sun above keeps burning
we are longing, we are yearning
to fulfil the sacred role
as matter drifts through energy
in the eternal symmetry
two pieces come together and
two parts become a whole
it's all we ever talk about
and what we're always thinking of
it's love, love, love, love, love, love, love
it is love, love, love, love, love

The Golden Era

When I was younger
we were Hippies
we were sisters, we were brothers
and we saw a brilliant future
where everybody loved each other
it was a time of peace and love
it was a lovely fantasy
but the sad fact is that we
were never a majority

Doomed from the Start

**The young are far too stupid
the old are too weak and too lame
so generation on generation
we mostly stay the same**

The Great Unknown

**I have often wondered
what it would be like to be
someone other than myself
but then, I wouldn't be me**

Our Limited Role

**We live our lives from day to day
and we assume that that's our fate
we really do not have a say
in the great affairs of state
we're disconnected, and it's strange
we all can see that this is wrong
we can see we need a change
this has been going on too long
I wish I knew just what to say
that there was something I could do
but I'll just keep on writing words
and hope that most of them are true**

Prague to Athens, December 2025

**The clouds are like vast fields of snow
from the window of the plane
we're higher than the eagles go
it's unnatural, insane
10,000 meters in the sky
OMG, I hate to fly**

A Poetic Revelation

**When poetry reveals
our deepest thoughts and strongest feelings
or the beauty of the universe
then poetry's fantastic
but poems about poetry
are nothing but ekphrastic**

Not a Bad Analogy

Poetry is Alchemy
it's not a bad analogy
we mix the words
like elements
randomly
haphazardly
in the hope
that some of them
completely accidentally
will appear to represent
some aspect of reality
with beauty
and with clarity
to last for all posterity
it's like transforming
lead to gold
or bullshit to sincerity

Going Beyond

**There's night beyond the starry night
and heights beyond the highest height
always one step further than
wherever we may go
it is a paradox designed
to test the limits of our mind
the more we learn
the more we find
how much we do not know**

Sleep Mantra

Lie still
relax
let go, unwind
and explore
the hidden pathways
in the city
of your mind
you'll be amazed
at what you find
in the deep,
deep, deep,
deep, deep,
deep, deep,
go to sleep,
go to sleep,
go to sleep

Time is the Thing we Measure

**Time is the thing we measure
so we know what time to go
to be on time for school or work
or the opening of a show
Physicists may think differently
with some weird theoretical twist
but time is the thing that we measure
in the world in which we exist**

Toward a Better World

**The world the world should be
is one of peace and love and understanding
to get from here to there
is not, in any way, demanding
it would not cost any money
or take effort just to say
let us not kill anyone today
and, if we were only willing
to abstain from all the killing
we could live in harmony
and that is how the world should be**

Censorship

**It's not O.K. to kill babies
killing babies is not O.K.
but the state of Israel does it
every single fucking day
Sometimes with bullets
sometimes with bombs
sometimes by starvation
or by hypothermia
in the current situation
It's not O.K. to kill babies
Killing babies is not O.K.
Nonetheless, that is a thing
Facebook doesn't want us to say**

Picture Window

When I look through my window
it's a picture of reality
I see some trees, some grass, some buildings
and a lot of sky
depending on the seasons
and the time of day, of course
and now and then there are
a couple people passing by
there are infinite variations
but mostly it's the same
and the curtains hanging down the side
make a lovely frame

I'm All Right, Jack

**Some people get upset about unraked leaves.
Some are upset by tattoos.
Me, I tend to get upset
whenever I watch the news
Some people are very particular
about different kinds of food
We are all different people
with different attitudes
So, if something upsets you
to an inordinate degree
Just smile and remember
It doesn't bother me**

Big Tent

The purpose of poetry all depends
on what you want it to be
words confined
in metric lines
or not, that's poetry
to inspire, to entertain,
to educate or amuse
by definition undefined
it is whatever you choose

Atheist Liberation

**Without God, people are free
to be whatever they want to be
Feet on the ground, looking up at the sky
always curious, wondering why
Enjoying the rain, enjoying the sun
eating and drinking and having fun
living together with family and friends
in a universe that never ends**

A Common Occurrence

**I've noticed that this happens quite a lot:
when someone says they're smart
they're often not**

Never Ending View

**You can see the whole world through a window
Everything, far and wide
You can see the whole world through a window
because the whole world is outside**

Collective Enlightenment

**If, through chanting mantras
or perhaps some fancy drugs
rhythmic breathing or deep meditation**

**You should achieve enlightenment
and understand the universe
would it really change your situation?**

**If you sit cross-legged
on a mountaintop at dawn
with a golden light
encircling your head**

**How long could you stay there and
contented, carry on
if everyone were
somewhere else instead?**

**To be as one with the universe
to understand it all
oblivious to every change in weather**

**Wouldn't make you happy
wouldn't do a bit of good
if we can't achieve it all together**

Mercury in Retrograde

**When Mercury's in retrograde
communications breakdowns
lead to arguments, hostilities
riots, fights and war**

Based on these criteria

it seems to me

from history

**that Mercury's been in retrograde
ten thousand years or more**

Beginnings

**The past is a part of the present
a basic, foundational part
the humble painters of Lascaux
are the cornerstone of art
The words that you heard as a child
the things your parents told you
remain, very much, a part of your life
even when you are older
The turning points of history
the inventions as well as the wars
make their mark or leave their stain
but it lasts forevermore
The past is a part of the present
the past is never gone
as we move into the future and
our lives go on and on**

For Tatiana Schlossberg

**Rich people are to be envied
they drink the very best wine
they dine in elegant restaurants
where everything's just divine
They live in their spacious mansions
with all of the things they've got
they spend their vacations in tropic locations
on board their massive yachts
They have unlimited money
to try whatever is new
but they can still die of cancer
just like poor people do**

Venezuelanalysis

A Venezuelanalysis
of Venezuelability
to resist the forces of
what Yankees call democracy
with all their modern weaponry
who are in the service
of the global oil monopoly
which is controlled by billionaires
who do not want clean energy
would show insufficient
military capability
to preserve autonomy
and national identity
and yet...
they are determined
to continue independently
and they have massive jungles
which can swallow up their enemy
and there are even people
up in gringoland
who understand
that this will be a catastrophe
a violation of sanctity
and they'll hold signs and march
through city streets in solidarity
and there will come a day
when Venezuela will again be free
so let's skip all the war-like crap
embrace the new reality
let everyone around the world
live in peace and harmony

Witches

**Here's to all of the women
who lived in the woods alone
who were burned, or hanged, or drowned
or crushed to death with stones
Every one was a victim
of ignorant sons of bitches
because as we all know today
there's no such thing as witches**

Body and Mind

Most people just
throw up their hands
and say they cannot
understand
why the world is
how it is and
not the way we
think it should be
Certainly, it's
understandable
every single
individual
must conform to
some extent
with overall
society
to accept what
we can't change is
quite a tempting
proposition
it's the obvious
decision and
the natural
thing to do
The leaves are floating
down the stream
the clouds are drifting
through the sky
life's a pleasure

life's a dream
there is no need
to wonder why
The inverse of
that equation
is to change what's
unacceptable
and the trick is
merely knowing
the difference
between the two
which is not
that hard to do
I am of the
firm opinion
that most problems
have solutions
hands have gloves
and shoes have feet
Sugar makes
your oatmeal sweet
and coffee makes
the morning brighter
People hungry?
give them food
People homeless?
build them homes
tents in the desert
biodomes
People ignorant?
build more schools

the future should
have fewer fools
We could, in almost
every case
Make the world a
better place and
when I say “the world”
I really mean
a combination
the planet that
we live on, plus
us, our human
civilization
We must respect
the planet, it’s
the only place
where we can live
we evolved within
its atmosphere
its quite unique
conditions
it has water
we drink water
it grows food that
we can eat and
it has oxygen
we breathe it and
the cycle is complete
But we’re also
something more than

just what we've
evolved to be
we are part of
a global unit
A species wide
society
Never before
in history
have we had this
awesome power
to improve the
world we live on
and to make it
even better
Never before
in history
have we had the
capacity
to choose the future
that we want
our progeny
to inhabit
To make the world
a better place
better planet
better people
better and better
and better designed
the Earth is our body
and we are its mind

Naked Tree

**The leaves have fallen to the ground
the tree is stark and bare
standing there without a sound
in the wintry air
A skeleton of what it was
silent and exposed
we could not stand outside so long
stripped of all our clothes
The tree, without its leaves, is still
a miracle of form
it weathers all the seasons and
it stands through every storm
Some day, Spring will come again
and its glory will be renewed
and new poems will be written
with a different attitude**

Can't Complain

**If everyone forgets me
after I am dead
I won't know and so
I will not care
centuries from now
I won't know anyone
alive on Earth
so, if you think about it
it's still fair**

Rogue Freaks

The masses of people who conform
to all of the others are known as the 'norm'
they don't make trouble
they're just O.K.
they are all alike
in the very same way
but the ones who are different
the ones who are strange
those who scream that the world should change
outliers, eccentrics, weirdos and freaks
each is unique
in a way that's unique

Frustration grows on Capitol Hill (Ode to a Glaringly Obvious Headline)

**Frustration grows on Capitol Hill
frustration grows across the land
as stupid people try to do
a job they do not understand
they think that science is a fraud
their view of history is wrong
they aren't good at math at all
and cannot read what is too long
They have no competence or wit
the job is just beyond their skill
and all they touch turns into shit
frustration grows on Capitol Hill**

Critical Ability

**In poetry
and other forms of art
and also chess
the ability
to see
what isn't there
is the key to success**

Better Than the Alternative

**When I was a young man
I was so much more
chock full of strength and vitality
Now, I am less
but I'm still so much more
than what I'll eventually be**

Our Responsibility to the Universe

I have a brand-new theory
and when I say a theory
I really mean hypothesis
conjecture or at least it is
a thought which has occurred to me
It's about humanity
we, the people, you and me
and how we co-exist with
everything we call reality
all that was, and what will be
the universal entity
all the stars up in the sky
from here out to eternity
the trees, the seas, the evening breeze
and everything that we can see
Being one with everything
is not as hard as you might think
in fact, it is the kind of thing
you simply can't not be
We ARE as one with everything
the rain that falls, the birds that sing
and yet, it's very obvious
we're different from that, too
That, somewhere along the road
we evolved a curious mind
and that has led to something
that is different, and new
language, science, math and art
gave the world, in fact
the universe, a brand-new start
now, we're in a time and place
when the consciousness

of the human race
is stored in an infinite database
I think it's called the cloud
We have made amazing progress
and I think we should be proud
but there is still one question that I've got
are we alone in the universe, or not?
It seems as if we couldn't be
the universe is vast, and there
are many, many planets so
life, the way we think of it
is probably not rare
but if we really are unique
a one in a trillion fluke, a freak
the only intelligent life forms
in the dark and endless night
then the way we are
behaving isn't right
we can't be having endless wars
the universe might not get more
chances to evolve into
a better universe
we can't destroy the world we're on
that way, too, we would be gone
with no one left to carry on
I can't imagine worse
we have a responsibility
to fulfil our destiny
continue on the never-ending
journey of discovery
to guarantee humanity
exists for all eternity
This is something that we could do
and it's something that we should do

I Climbed the Mountain

**I climbed the mountain in my mind
it wasn't all that hard
I climbed the mountain in my mind
and never left my yard
I sailed and sailed around the world
and never left my room
I fought with monsters and survived
two or three typhoons
I've hiked through mighty forests
and across the desert sands
and faced a million dangers
with only my bare hands
Adventures can be dangerous
and you could wind up dead
which is why I mostly travel
just inside my head**

Just Like Everyone Else

**Writers are people like other people
some are rebels, some not so much
some are drug addicts, some alcoholics
some are family types with children
some are bitter, some are sweet
some are vegans, some eat meat
some are left wing, some are right
the only thing that writers
have in common is
we like to write**

The Big Self-Own

**Followers of Andrew Tate
your hearts and minds are filled with hate
for all the women who won't mate with
or, in fact, will even date you
I know it can be frustrating
on your own and masturbating
but there is no point complaining
that won't help you through the night
All your moaning and your cursing
really only makes things worse
as all the women who detect you
all the women who suspect you
all the women who reject you
all of them are proven right**

War Crimes

Israel has unlimited
drones and bombs and guns
they'll kill the people if they stay
they'll kill them if they run
they kill them if they're starving
and lining up for food
they'll even make a game of it
if they are in the mood
they've killed entire families
children, husbands, wives
and they cheerfully kill doctors
who would keep some folks alive
they murder all the journalists
to silence all their critics
and if anyone objects to this
they must be anti-semitic

In Memory of Charlie Kirk

**He said “Some gun deaths are worth it
so we can be free to have guns”
So, somebody shot him and killed him
and now that argument’s done**

Celestial Disappointment

**Every time I try to see
a celestial event
either it’s cloudy or raining
or I just plain forget**

Obvious Things

Beautiful's better than ugly
but we work with what we've got
Smart is better than stupid
but, still, some people are not
Strong is better than weak, of course
and healthy is better than sick
Rich is clearly better than poor
but I've never learned the trick
We all have different attributes|
in different amounts
but, as long as you're a nice person
that's all that really counts

Greater Forces

**No matter how hard they close the strait
the sun will shine, the wind will blow
the world will be a cleaner place
because they've stopped the oil's flow**

Piece of Work

**What a piece of work is man
What a bloody piece of work
We muddle through without a plan
and, for the most part, act like jerks**

Irony

I don't listen, but I speak
I don't read, and yet I write
I can't cook but I'll complain
If my food's not seasoned right
It's all through human history
the nature of the beast
those who have the most to say
are those who know the least

Fermi's Paradox, Explained

**The reason for the paradox
that Fermi postulated
is clear as the sun
that's shining in our face
There are other planets
where aliens are located
but the universe
is a really, really big place**

In Response to an Online Poet Named Donna

**So, your poems are long and sad
that is still O.K.**

**You are doing nothing wrong
say what you have to say
My poems are short and silly
humor is my aim
but no one reads them, either
So, we're basically the same**

If There is no God

**If there is no God
(as it seems to me)
I could be wrong
the mysteries
of the universe
infinity
eternity
are beyond our comprehension
and it could be
always will be
Nonetheless, consider this:
If there's no God
then we're alone
and everything is up to us
this is an opportunity
to become the Gods that we
would rather that
the Gods would be**

Dear Jewish People

**At this point in historical time
being Jewish is kind of a crime
if you haven't denounced the genocide
then you certainly have no reason for pride
you can wear a star, or a little chai
around your neck, but you know it's a lie
It's a very strange thing, a bizarre twist of fate
but Israel is now a Nazi state**

Progress

**You do things the way that you like
I'll do things the way that I like
We'll both have our little fun
and somehow things will still get done**

For Virginia Giuffre

**Human beings are horrible
there is no way to explain
why being born as beautiful
should lead to so very much pain**

If Only...

**If only I were richer
I'd buy a great big ship
just to bring all my friends on board
for a beautiful, endless trip**

**If only I were smarter
I would write the perfect book
to inspire all the readers
with just a single look**

**If only I were younger
I'd party all night long
but I don't do that any more
because it just feels wrong**

**If only, oh, if only
things were not the same
but that is not the way things work
in life, this strange old game**

Shakespeare and Me

Mostly I write little poems
the kind that make me smile
and then when I am finished
I just add them to the pile
of all of the works of literature
which currently exist
along with William Shakespeare
I'm right there on that list
It isn't quite the same, of course
as immortality
nonetheless, the world will always
have a bit of me

Water is Free

**Water is free
it falls from the sky
it makes things wet
which once were dry
it forms in puddles
it runs in streams
and through all of our
poems and songs and dreams
stream to river
river to sea
water, water, water is free**

The Peak of the Coaster

Every time I write a poem
I get a little thrill
that a thing completely new
was crafted by my skill
I take it out in public
I read my poem out loud
to a room of non-committal
faces in the crowd
and they all clap politely
and then the evening's done
and that poem is forgotten
so, I write another one

Times of Rage

There is so much going on
and most of it is bad
we'd like to keep it positive
but we can't not be mad
Ignorant people rule the world
and they might well destroy it
which makes it hard for normal folk
to sit back and enjoy it
If you can relax on the old front porch
with a nice cool drink in hand
and think "Ah, life is beautiful"
then you don't understand
In this world
you would have to be blind
and deaf, to have any
peace of mind

Karma

**When I was young, I avoided the old
I cringed, and kept away
So, if the young ignore me now
it's fair, at least, O.K.**

Couch-22

**I smoke a joint and I get real high
that's the kind of thing that I do
but then I can't get up again
and that is a couch-22**

The Dream

They say that it's a childish dream
that we can't have utopia
a world that's prosperous and clean
a wholesome cornucopia
Where everybody has a home
a place to lay their head at night
and there's no war 'cause everybody
gets along all right
The water and the air are pure
and fruit is falling from the trees
and there are massive schools of fish
once again, which fill the seas
The cities gleam and sparkle and
the traffic moves without a hitch
No one live in poverty
and some can still be rich
The stuff to make it so exists
we have the power and the means
and yet, the pessimists persist
in calling it a childish dream

Healthy Skepticism

We may speculate
about a government's intentions
and we all know the usual
standardized suggestions
but every single adult knows
or at least they should
whatever their intentions are
they certainly aren't good

Sweeteners

**Sugar on your cornflakes is delicious
Sugar in your coffee
helps to sweeten up the day
Sometimes I even call my honey Sugar
and she wouldn't have it any other way**

Infinite Regression

**It's an infinite regression
and emotionally draining
everyone complaining
about other folks complaining**

Three Monkeys

**Just close your eyes to the sight of
the devastation all around
just close your ears to the screaming of
the children on the ground
and most of all, just close your mouth,
and do not make a sound
or the people in control will put you
down, down, down**

If Everybody Was Nice

**If everybody was nice
If everybody was good
the world would be a happy place
exactly as it should be
We're living in the world we have
but, oh how sweet it would be
if we were better than we are
as good as I think we should be**

Gaza

**In April 1945
a lot of people said
“We had no idea
about the camps and all the dead”
Now we all have cameras
everywhere we go
So, no lying son of a bitch
can ever say “We didn’t know.”**

Sexual Electricity

**Everything is interconnected
how could it be not?
It all exists in time and space
everything we've got
When two bodies drift apart
or when they intersect
there is tension, there is friction
there is action and reaction
there are infinite combinations
there's insertion and retraction
put the plug into the socket
and see what happens next
that is electricity
that is also sex**

Why Night is Greater than the Day

We can see
as far as the sun
just eight light minutes away
we can make out the flowers
the bushes and trees
the hills and the rivers
the lakes and the trees
and we call that the day
But as the Earth turns
its back to the sun
darkness descends
and the day is done
we can't see the details
but that's O.K.
because we can see
thousands of light years away

View from the Train

**The bright yellow fields of canola
complement the green
Springtime in Bohemia
is a pretty and pleasant scene**

Poetic License

**When writing with rhyme and with meter
one of the unwritten laws
is that in science, and in grammar
you might have allowed a few flaws**

The Colors of Poetry

In poems colors are a code
a palette of our emotions
blue is the color of the sky
and also the deep blue ocean
Vastness, depth, eternity
in all of its varying hues
if you want to express deep meaning
you can't go wrong with blue

Red is the color of blood and of fire
power and great passion
it can also be a very bold choice
if the subject is fashion

Yellow's the color of dandelions
butter and the sun
yellow is bright and catches the eye
yellow expresses fun

Black is the color of outer space
death and a moonless night
English is really a racist language
and that is not all right

White is the color of the snow
which rules the winter season
in poetry, it's purity
I do not know the reason

Green is the color of leaves and grass
Our planet is green and blue
Green expresses life and birth
and anything that's new

Purple is for royalty
and feminism is pink
I can't find a good rhyme for orange
but I like the orange drinks
The rainbow in the sky above
now is seen as gay
it's a very powerful symbol
which will never go away

The meanings of different colors
have been assigned by man
but, without them, poetry
would be a bit more bland

Follow Me

**Follow me
and I will guide you
Othrough the tangled,
narrow, neural networks
of my twisted mind
to the place
where inner secrets
and my deepest thoughts reside
You will see the things I see
and you will hear the things I hear
and you will know the thoughts I think
and you will feel the things I feel
and come away with something more
from this intimate conversation
this journey of imagination
then you ever had before**

Beautiful You

**Simplicity is beautiful
complexity is, too
Red is a beautiful color
but so are yellow and blue
There's beauty in antiquity
and in what's shiny and new
Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful, beautiful
You, and you, and you**

Together

Every point becomes a portal
and each moment is an interface
Everything is just one thing
through all of time, through all of space
As we're traveling through space
our collective future will unwind
we do not know how it will be
we do not know what we will find
Inevitably, it will be
something very unexpected
That's O.K. because we all
will still be interconnected

Back to Basics

**Science is a changing field
the universe is so complex
We do not know what's going on
or what will happen next**

**Muons, gluons, protons, quarks
and other things too small to see
make the universe a place
of infinite complexity**

**But as the trees all turn to green
(a symbol of recurrent youth)
and April breathes its pleasant breath
I am reminded of this truth:**

**Earth and Water and Fire and Air
are all we really need to know
to live upon this world of ours
and make the trees and flowers grow**

The Foreign Land

**The future is the present
and it's like a foreign land
for people who are of my generation
There is so much technology
that we don't understand
it truly is an awkward situation**

Ontario

**The people don't have planes and tanks
or drones in great big batches
they use the weapons that they have
and what they have are matches**

Dilemma

When I am very, very stoned
I get ideas for brilliant poems
but I forget them, I have found
if I do not write them down
But when I write them, as I should
sometimes, they aren't all that good

Your Choice

Show up early
Worst thing is
That you will have to wait
Worse results are possible
If you show up late

Spring the First

**Spring is here! Today I saw
some new green buds a budding
and where snow was till recently
the ground is soft and muddy
The air is warm, I truly could
have done without the sweater
and every day, from here on in
is going to get better**

If I Were There

**If I were there, instead of here
then I'd do that, instead of this
and that would be my every day
and this would be the world I'd miss**

Your Opinion is as Valid as Your Experience

**Most who say with certainty
“my country is the best”
have never been to another country
so, I'm not impressed**

Our Own Fault

The air is full of oxygen
the rivers flow so sweet
there is a cornucopia
of stuff for us to eat
We have brains to understand things
and very clever hands
to build the universe we want
the world's at our command
So, why do we find ourselves
in such a horrid state?
Why don't we just have peace and love
instead of war and hate
The problem is, as far as I can tell
We live in heaven, but we make it hell

The Problem With Democracy

**Kings and Queens should not exist
but let the people choose
and they choose the biggest moron
which means everybody loses
Monarchy is insanity
but democracy is cursed
when people have two choices
they will often pick the worst**

Which Way Now?

I sometimes see great art that's posted
or words both wise and witty
I get weather reports
from lots of different places
but other folks just like to boast
or say things that are shitty
knowing you will never see their faces
The human psyche has been exposed
like pictures of a dick
there are bits of brilliance here and there
but a lot of it is sick
now we know just who we are
and have no more delusions
the time has come for us to try
and find some new solutions

Hooray for Reality!

**When you try to change reality
through chemistry, with LSD
or perhaps, with meditation
to rise above it**

**Reality, itself, I've found
won't change, the world keeps turning round
and all that's changed
is our perception of it**

**That's all fine and that's all good
reality is what it should be
life is strange, but
I must say, I love it**

Drama

Today we have great actors
who shine upon the screen
and they're raking in the money
by the ton

but back in ancient Athens
there were thespians instead
and that's how the art of drama
was begun

They held up masks to show
if they were happy or were sad
and spoke their lines
that's all they had to do

but for the ancient audience
it wasn't all that bad
they were thrilled because it was
still something new

There were comedies and tragedies
and paeans to the gods
in amphitheatres
on the outdoor stages

Now it's mostly Netflix
and a lot of CGI
but the art itself has lasted
through the ages

Small Words

**The small words are very important
they're useful and very concise
it's good to know lots of big, fancy words
but the small ones are also quite nice**

The Eternal Intergenerational Conflict

**Every generation
will criticize the last
it's apparent that the future
is toxic to the past**

Is it Vincent, or is it AI?

**It is a pretty picture, quite pleasing to the eye
with that great big blotch of yellow in the blue
but cloudy sky**

**Yet, there's something not quite right, and I think
I might know why**

Is this really Vincent, or is it just A.I.?

Anthem War

**Boo loud, boo proud, my Canadian friends
and fuck the USA**

**It was Trump who started this
and he's a hoser, eh?**

Day and Night

**The day is clear, the day is bright
dark and mysterious is the night
By day, we are mostly at work or at school
at night we go out and break all of the rules
day is the time for truth and facts
night is the time for lascivious acts
the Earth spins around, there's no way to resist
Now and forever, the two will exist**

Rain in the City

Rain in the city
affects our perception
we see the reflection
of clouds in the street
the buildings
the lamp posts
the signs and the people
the beautiful canvas
that's under our feet
it's lucid and beautiful
weird, wet and wonderful
kind of exceptional
sort of a treat

AI or Barcelona?

**Scrolling merrily through my daily scroll
on my phone or my computer screen
killing time, deferring all my goals
I see images I've never seen
of buildings that are fanciful and bold
defying architectural conventions
they change the paradigm, they break the mold
Brobdingnagian, Seussian inventions
Are they real, how can we even tell?
Our visual senses aren't enough alone
a rule of thumb, here,
that would serve quite well:
either it's AI, or Barcelona**

It's Not a Law

**Nobody needs to get married
not everyone needs to have kids
the world would be a very crowded place
if we all did**

Skewed Perception

**I see the bad in others
in myself I see only the good
if other people think like that, too
we're all misunderstood**

Happy Revolution!

My New Year's Resolution
is to start a revolution
we'll destroy a bunch of shit
and have a lot of fun
and the world will be a better place
after we are done

We will crush the oligarchy,
hierarchy and patriarchy
all the other little -archies
and a lot of isms, too
Hooray! Hooray! What a glorious day!
That's what we're going to do

We'll bang the drums and play kazoos
vuvuzelas and didgeridoos
each object is an instrument
we'll blow it, thump it or pluck it
(like some crazy old man from Nantucket)
We'll build a fire in the park
strip naked cause it's super hot
and gaze into the flames and sparks
and eat some shrooms and smoke some pot

some may say it's a bad decision
but it will be better than television
We'll build a new society
without the garbage of the past
amid the flowers and the trees
and it will be a blast
That's my New Year's resolution
Happy, Happy revolution!

The Beauty of Diversity

If all the world's people
spoke Esperanto, or English
or, let's say, Chinese
it might ease communication
and grease the wheels of industry
Oh, we could have simplicity
and ultimate efficiency
but that would come at the expense
of cultural diversity
the beauty and the poetry
that is there in every tongue
when languages die
we all should cry
for the songs that will never be sung

The Great Unknown

**97% of everything
and maybe even more
is filed in the file called “unknown”
the past, the future, outer space
the meaning of the human race
forever hidden
in that twilight zone**

World of Indoctrination

**It's a world of indoctrination
this world we're living in
without anthems, without flags
the world would continue to spin**

Malibu

**We've seen mudslides, we've seen fires
Year after year after year after year
There are places you shouldn't build houses
by now, that should be clear**

Class Envy

**They have mansions, they have yachts
and travel to exotic spots
they wear fine clothes, they look divine
and drink the most expensive wines
look down upon the rest of us
and say “you are just envious”
but “just” is such a little word
dismissive, petty, condescending
I would kill the fucking lot
and that would be a happy ending**

You're Normal

**You're normal, perfectly normal
in that you sweat, and poop, and pee
you're just like everybody else
and very much like me
you're normal in that you breathe the air
you eat, you sleep, you drink
you react to the world around you
you dream, you sometimes think
you're normal in almost everything
you think, or say, or do
so, it's no big deal if you're abnormal
in some small ways, too**

The Race of the Sperm

**Of all of the writers writing today
there are one or two whose work might last
and be read, a hundred years from now
by students of the past**

**Of all of the painters painting today
and hanging work upon the walls
one or two may be remembered
as even the walls will fall**

**Of all of the musicians
entertaining us on the stage
no more than a few will be remembered
in that distant age**

**Actors, scientists, politicians
all will eventually die
and only a couple will be remembered
no matter how hard they try**

**It matters little how well you live
or what career you choose
it's the race of the sperm all over again
and most of us will lose**

Infinity

**We can never see every star in the sky
we can never read every book
we'll never see the conclusion of pi
no matter how long we look
We will never see every movie
we will never hear every song
even if we were to live
a couple of million years long
Music is still being written
and films are all over the place
infinity is a beautiful thing
but it puts us right in our place**

Watching the People Watch the Animals

**It's always a lovely day at the zoo
watching the people
watch the animals
nobody's doing anything cruel
nobody's doing anything criminal
nobody there is driving a car
and filling the air with
carbon monoxide
nobody there is waging war
committing terrible acts of genocide
it's a peaceful, sheltered place
for the animals and the people, too
watching the people
watch the animals
always a lovely day at the zoo**

Awe

**The sun, the moon
the drifting clouds
the lightning and the thunder
the sky above is there for us
to look upon and wonder**

Tiny

In view of the visible universe
we are infinitely small
a tiny little dust speck
not discernible at all
but to those of us who live upon
this tiny blue green ball
it seems like quite a lot
and after all
it is the only planet that we've got

What is Seen Can't be Unseen

**Children hobble through the rubble
missing arms and legs
starving families dream of things
like milk and bread and eggs
Bombs are falling constantly
the air is never still
and everyone knows someone
who the IDF has killed**

**They're ripping up the olive trees
to cause eternal harm
as they force the West Bank families
from their houses and their farms
they throw rocks at dogs and donkeys
they run over sheep and lambs
and the politicians in the West
do not give a damn**

**White phosphorus has turned
the South of Lebanon into Hell
they've moved their border further North
and bombed Beirut as well
The bloodlust is upon them
the killing will not end
every day some brand new horror's
coming round the bend**

The people who would bring their victims
medicine and food
were kidnapped by Israelis
tortured and abused
They've desecrated mosques and churches
beaten up a nun
every day it's escalating
it is far from done

We know you've seen the videos
We know you know it's true
and if you're not opposed to this
there's something wrong with you
A genocide is happening
Yes, that is the word
What's been seen can't be unseen
and heard can't be unheard

A Picture Within a Picture

**A picture within a picture
a book within a book
everything gets more complex
the deeper that you look
An afternoon in summer
on a rock beside a stream
stop thinking for a little bit
it's simpler than it seems
We don't understand what's happening
or what will happen next
reality is both plain as day
and infinitely complex
Just do what makes you happy
do what you think is fun
you'll be at peace with the universe
and the world will be as one**

Same Moon

The moon will rise in Mexico
Paris or Bombay
in dark December
or in brightest June
When it's full it's awesome
and we all look up to say
"By golly, that is sure
a lovely moon!"
It is a brilliant, golden ball
a very lovely, sight
a symbol of romance and love
within the darkest night
The symbolism is as clear
as the orb is bright
in both poetry and science
it is still, reflected light

Hope Springs

I was walking through the woods
when I chanced to see
some delicate white flowers
growing on a tree
in the springtime of the year
and I knew for sure
the flowers hadn't been there
just a week before
They looked like little snowflakes
which, of course, they had replaced
and the fact of their existence
brought a smile to my face
However horrid people are
no matter what we do
every year at springtime
the Earth is born anew

Poem of the Day

I try to write a poem a day
I really think I should
I would not want the fountain
to stop flowing
The problem with that method
is they aren't always good
and I'm afraid the lack of quality
is showing

When I am Among the Trees

**When I am among the trees
deciduous, evergreen, palm
I feel a sense of peacefulness,
tranquillity and calm
Some are tall and straight and proud
and some a bit more twisted
but they have been around since long
before people even existed
Away from towns and traffic sounds
where everything is still
the wind blows softly through the leaves
and we hear the voice we will**

In the Future, Far Away

**In the future, far away
assuming people have survived
I hope the world is so improved
that everybody left alive
is happy, healthy, smart and strong
and they have learned to get along
in all their great diversity
to co-operate and appreciate
the beauty of reality
it's infinite complexity
here on Earth
and out in space
through this and other galaxies**