

# **Voyages through America**

by

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## **Tranquility?**

Pacify not the conflict  
Contention and discord be gone  
Dissidence and strife breed warfare  
Backs broken, bended knees, sorrow's song.

Blot upheaval, turmoil, unrest  
Nay for accord and serenity now  
Find peace and blissful concord  
Look beyond politics to show us how.

Tranquility not for freedom  
Battle cries to flicker and fade  
Scream not from silent proving ground  
Sans victory our time allayed.

## **Remember**

Do you fear the bumps deep in the night  
When you sleep in my neighborhood?  
Is the glow from the moon all but dimmed  
From the window in my room where you stood?

Do you, on your pedestal, mighty and tall  
Look down upon me and the rest  
Who sheltered from the cold night air  
And offered your first sweet caress?

Do you forget from whence you came  
From whom your loins were born  
Falter not and don't look back  
But what when comes the storm?

Remember when your back is turned  
And your eyes will not meet mine  
Remember that I remember much more  
And won't be burned a second time.

## **Homeless America**

She came with a backpack that used to be pink  
And ribbons in her hair and a fresh smile to  
Match her clean but stubbornly stained dress.  
She was eager, friendly and foreign  
She held her grandmother's hand tightly  
Until it was time to let go and be with the rest.  
She was different in all the ways that mattered  
And the same in all the ways that mattered  
And neither of those things would ever be noticed  
If they weren't pointed out  
By well meaning adults  
Who don't mean so well at all.

## **defcon four**

What is the equivalent  
To defcon four  
When the enemy rides horses  
And fights with fire  
And the long cold blade of the machete?

What happens  
If neither the fire  
Nor the blade can  
Disturb our sleep  
Without the reality of piercing our skin?

Wait...  
What happens is...  
We'll go to the box store  
And purchase a toy or two  
From the country whose funds  
Help sponsor the "conflict"  
And cast away thoughts unpretty  
On the backs of those  
Whose skin can be pierced  
In the reality of their own defcon four.

## **Nothing that We Know**

Rooftop hop  
Eagle's drop  
Wings on high  
Soldier's cry  
Coming home  
Nar to roam again.

Children gone  
Forgotten song  
Legal barely  
Trodden warily  
Yet to vote  
For those to send  
Again

Tweedle Dee  
And Tweedle Dum  
Were left to run the world  
Said Tweedle Dee to Tweedle Dum  
Should we our plan unfurl?

Said Tweedle Dee to Tweedle Dum  
Our hand how can we show  
When we, my Tweedle Deedle Dee  
Know nothing that we know.

## **Immigrants in Time**

He came through Ellis Island.  
Not across the border  
Through barbed wire  
Or in the trunk of a car.

He was shuttled  
Like cattle  
Prodded, poked,  
Pushed along.  
Darwinian selection  
In New York Harbor.

Both came for the promise  
Of what life could be  
In America.

He picked asparagus  
On Sherman Island  
Over sixty years ago.  
He gave his money  
To his mother  
Who sent it  
To the old country  
An uncle in a wheelchair.

His family now...  
College educated  
Successful  
Have no idea  
The innate kinship he feels  
To the migrant  
Hunched over the vine  
Pickling the grapes  
For their consumption.  
For they who came across the border  
Through barbed wire  
Or in the trunk of a car.

## **Temptuous Is Not a Word**

Drops of water  
Grains of sand  
Temptuous ocean  
remorseless land  
Empty cup  
Last grain gone  
Moving forward  
Traveling on  
Rice bowl filled  
Another day  
Mother's sing  
Children play  
Drops of water  
Grains of sand  
Temptuous ocean  
Remorseless land

## **Wash the Rain**

Wash the rain  
before the sun  
falls prey  
to the clouds  
that threaten  
encumbrance  
of a city.

Scrub the hail  
that falls to earth  
before the sky  
opens up  
devouring  
a matterless town.

## **Excess**

Uncloak the plot that ends  
Poverty for all time  
Divulge the means to equity  
Release the ties that bind.

Excess beyond belief  
Yet still we cry for more  
Excess that leads to greed  
Ever craving more.

Cerulean cell phones  
That walk on their own  
Blazing bulbs blinding  
When no one is home.

Cars that go faster  
In day glow bright green  
Massive in size  
Devour gasoline.

Turn back the tides  
Let this be a sign  
To stop the excess  
Lest all comes untwined.

## Suppression

Outshine the mighty porcupine  
That lives by the river below  
Decline the lax supine opine  
That set the valley aglow

Stickly...  
Prickly...  
Dangerous  
Settle down and think.

Ickity  
Rickety  
Scrupulous?  
A nod, a flip, a wink.

Outshine the mighty porcupine  
That rules with fists of ore  
Confine the blackened carbine shrine  
Close tight and lock the door.

## **I Don't**

I don't put sugar on my oatmeal to bridge the gap  
I don't butter my buns to stop the disparity  
I don't watch cable on Fridays so we are equal  
I don't buy Kona when Columbian's on sale

And sometimes  
When it's really cold  
I don't put on my coat before I go outside  
To make us equal you know

I don't talk on my cell phone when I step over you  
I don't sip on my soda to bring parity  
I don't use my electric blanket so we feel the same  
I don't listen too loudly to the noise that I make

And sometimes  
When I bother to look  
I don't think that we're not alike  
But then sometimes  
I don't.

## **World Hunger**

Gold capped mountains  
Set with the sun  
As day is devoured  
By night's darkness

The same sun  
Casts shadows of dawn  
On the endless  
Desert horizon

Noontime's blaze  
Triggers hunger's pangs  
In houses of  
Wood and cloth and stone

Only under this sun  
Or encapsulated  
In this blackness  
Few will feed  
On enough.

## **Promise Stay**

Aragon dreams  
Knights in the wind  
Begotten now  
Reprise the sin

Self proclaimed land  
A kingdom anew  
Back to the world  
Final debut

Fiefdom rings out  
Long, strong and near  
Vacated hope  
Nay pioneer

Silent the words  
Promises stay  
Evil be gone  
Please go away.

## **Find a Hero**

I want to find a hero  
I look day in and out  
I want to find a champion  
To ease the inner doubt

I need to find a hero  
Someone who is true  
Someone who is noble  
Who knows just what to do

Why is it impossible  
To find a worthy guide  
To lead us from the darkness  
To tame the temptuous tide?

## **Like Not Needing Anyone**

Like a day without the night  
Like a moon that casts no light  
Like a angel without wings  
Like a bird that can not sing.

Like a life without a friend  
Like a nightmare with no end  
Like a world without the sun  
Like not needing anyone.

Like a phoenix rising high  
Like never asking why  
Like a bandit and his gun  
Like not needing anyone

Like his lies that need the dark  
Like a sparkler with not spark  
Like a war where no one dies  
We need no more cold lies.

## **Perhaps it is Just Missing**

I don't believe that yesterday  
Was any better  
Than today

I don't believe my mother  
Or my father  
When they say

That days gone by were brighter  
That the future's dried and gone  
That hope is all forgotten  
That somewhere  
Someone  
Went wrong.

I don't believe that hope  
Is a misty dream gone by  
I don't believe  
Tomorrow  
Is a stream  
That's all gone dry

I don't believe  
That all  
Hope in the world  
Is gone

Perhaps it's just missing

## **Under the Bridge**

Under the bridge

Isolated

Under the bridge

A newspaper and a tin can cup

Under the bridge

Medication in a brown paper bag

Under the bridge

Forgotten

Under the bridge

Cars fly by

On top of the bridge

Never stopping to look

Under the bridge.

## **Physics**

Point, line, plane, cube  
A dimension on the tip of a pin  
Quantum, Einstein, relativity  
Gravity weak and thin.

Speculation not perfection  
A particle model flip  
Dimension defined by science  
Heaven now in our grip.

## **Inhumanosity**

The barbarosity of inhumanosity  
Wait is that really a word?  
Just like cold-hearted cruelty  
The looking glass turned absurd.

Where lies benevolent compassion  
When savagery rears its head  
What of virtuous humanity  
Why must the fire be fed?

On Satan's wings and a southern drawl  
On the fiery scepters sway  
Come hence the maniacal monster  
And rabbit go away.

The winding road and ticking clocks  
The hearts with dancing spears  
Fill in the hole – quick shovel strong  
And quash a nation's fears.

## **Enemy Mine?**

Enemy mine  
From a foreign land  
Stand at my side  
And dare them to tell us apart.

Enemy mine  
Is my brown hair  
And light blue eyes  
Better than the tan of your skin.

Enemy mine  
If they close their eyes  
And hug us near  
Could they tell you from me.

Oh enemy mine...  
Would then they let us be?

**After the next commercial...**

After the next commercial

I'll do my part.

After the next commercial

I'll make the call.

After the next commercial

I'll write a letter to my Congressman

Aid to Africa.

After the next commercial

I'll mind my heart.

After the next commercial

I'll stop the fall.

After the next commercial

I'll plant a few trees

And volunteer my time at the shelter

After the next commercial...

Wait...

My show's back on.

## **Pinnacle Point**

Dancing on the winds of change  
A pinnacle point in time

Dreaming of the soft warm rain  
Followed by crisp sunshine.

Acting on your words of peace  
If you would do the same

We'd fight the battle side by side  
And finally stop the rain.

**Do you remember...**

Do you remember  
When we used to say  
That being us was fine?

Do you remember  
When we used to be  
On the right side of the line?

Do you remember...  
Really remember...  
When words were action backed?

I remember  
When I believed  
Integrity existed where now is lacked.

**Strong...true...brave**

Amazing purple mountains  
Sun bleached sands of gold  
Plains all gently swaying  
Treasures now unfold.

Red for the blood lost freedom  
Blue of the truest test  
White thus pure and noble  
Giving all our best.

March on the quest for glory  
Glory and honor hold chaste  
Sparing the lose of our children  
Save for the lives that we waste.

On to not more battles  
Call them what you might.  
A gun, grenade or canon...  
A fight is still a fight.

Name not another campaign  
Declare our freedom saved  
Live by the words they wrote us...  
The strong, the true, the brave.

## **Outside In**

A fiber optic lifeline  
Instantaneous communication.  
Satellite internet  
From a missionary's laptop  
On the red Kenyan dirt  
To a flat in Chicago  
A taste of the world beyond  
But no way out.

## **Holding Ground**

My hand is open and ready  
But it is greeted with the closed  
Clenched fist of conflict.  
So I close my fist and ready  
Myself for the fight to come.

I cannot see that what you  
Clench is her ring...  
the one who Has fallen.  
You see my fists  
Clenched and ready.  
You dig in and I dig in  
Both holding our ground  
Ground that is not conflicted  
But will be fought over  
Just the same.

## **Who Will Remember**

Who will remember the ones buried alone?  
When the battle is over and the grass grows...  
And the killing fields are memorialized like Waterloo  
Only nobody remembers the soldiers' names  
Or from whence they came  
No glorious fame...  
For those who are buried alone.

When the battle takes place on a city street  
And the ammo is a car with a bomb attached  
And the only remains are dripping from  
The lamppost and the corner market  
Who will know from whence they came  
No glorious fame  
For those who are buried alone.

The casualties aren't soldiers who stood at Waterloo  
Or noble young men fighting for the cause of their country  
The casualties are little boys and school girls  
Caught in the crossfire of a life they didn't pick  
And who will know from whence they came  
No glorious fame  
For those who are buried alone.

## **Winds of Change**

Immutable laws guide our faith -- troubled deeply  
in the marred confusion of modernity.  
A force greater than this guides us from within.  
Some possess it on the verge of madness  
Others in quite serenity and the forlorned focus  
Of insomnia – genius not of our world  
Lost...afflicted...damaged souls of borders  
Adrift on a sea of obscure and wanton nomads  
Clenching tightly their heads – sheltering their ears  
From the voices who call loudly on the winds of change.

## **Dreams**

I dreamed I was lost in a forest of fries  
With streams of chocolate swirls.  
The rain was salt the sun cast down  
On beds of crispy cheese curls.

Ho-ho leaves and ding dong walks  
With Jolly Rancher candy lights  
I ate my way from hither to yon...  
Oh what a glorious night.

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I knew this lady  
Old beyond her years  
White hair  
And deep eyes  
She was tiny  
Whispy  
She served my soup at Cantor's  
A delicate thing  
Frail  
Sweet  
Almost innocent  
Sheltered  
A blurred blue line  
Indelible image  
A testament  
Resilient  
Strong  
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## **The Fall**

Is this the fall of Rome?  
So to speak...  
Or do we dare compare  
The short sweet journey  
Of a few centuries  
To those of the mighty kingdom?

Will this truly be the downfall  
Of the last Tarquinian King?  
The final fall...Rome forsaken  
Rant with decadence and decay  
Empty currency – military gone astray?

Corruption...inflation...  
A bankrupt government...  
Denial...  
Sound familiar...

Perhaps fall is too final...  
Rome still exists after all...  
Perhaps adapted is better...  
Are you ready to adapt  
When the fall is our own?

## **Do You Remember?**

Do you remember  
When we used to say  
That being us was fine?  
Do you remember  
When we used to be  
On the right side of the line?  
Do you remember  
    Really remember  
When actions backed the words we blew?  
I remember when I believed  
I remember  
    I remember  
        Do you?

## **Auntie Maya**

On the corner  
Outside the market  
Near the trash can  
Where the needles land  
Sits Auntie Maya.  
Regal as her name  
Mighty in her stature  
Five foot nothing  
And just as wide.  
She's got changes  
Or the faded gumballs  
The after school crowd likes so much  
They take her change  
Or give her their spare  
Buy the balls  
Then dip 'um in X  
Float in the clouds o  
Red, blue and green.

## **Wait**

Lost in time  
Frozen still  
A heart sans soul  
A fever's chill  
Once distraught  
A nail for bed  
More than not  
A cloak to shed  
A second skin  
An albatross  
A nightmare played  
On a bloody cross.

## **Matter Not**

I don't feel it anymore  
My stomach doesn't leap  
When I hear your name  
My heart doesn't race  
Thinking of seeing you  
You're all but gone from memory  
An ancient speck in my mind's eye  
Does it matter than it matter not  
Only when you say it does

## **A World Away**

Seven figures  
And a ball  
While some sit  
East of the decimal  
A week's work  
Lost over juice  
While belly's swell  
No rice today  
'Cause on the hill  
A world away  
You just don't matter.

## **One More for the Road**

They laid her out  
A final rest on a cold slab  
A man in a whit coat  
A curtain pulled  
On last look  
Ashen, frigid, stiff  
A lifeless vessel  
Expertly averted eyes  
A nod and it's done  
One more for the road

## **Time**

Have you ever wondered  
What the night is like  
When the day I gong  
And you lay fast asleep  
It doesn't stop you know  
Cause you're tucked in slumber  
Life rolls on just as if  
You don't even matter at all.

## **A New Game**

The world sits courtside  
Fixed for news  
Of their favorite team  
High def visions  
From across the world  
Winner take all.

## **Let Them Go**

Let them go to war  
Those who call for more money  
To feed their addiction  
Let they who dream  
Of victory won  
Let them  
Be first to take up arms.

## **Doubt**

There is not knight  
No shining armor  
There is no way in  
And there isn't  
An easy way out  
There are not winners  
And the only door open  
Is shrouded in cynical doubt.

## **Winner Take All**

Talking trash  
Shootin' low  
Street ball rules  
Friend or foe  
Three point shot  
From the line  
Leather bumps  
Boys at prime  
Blasts away  
Bim bam boom  
Clicked off rounds  
End too soon  
Game called short  
Time to go  
Who did win?  
No one knows.

## **The End of the Small Town**

Built on the backs of our fathers  
Small towns from sea to sea  
A symbol of hard work and freedom  
Things our children may never see.  
Small towns erased from our memories  
Crowded streets and congestion all  
My kingdom for the country  
Not another mall.

## **Little Green Men**

They're coming to get us  
Not the little green men  
But the ones in the suits  
With their ties  
And dark glasses  
They're a silent army  
But steady and sure  
And mightier than a thousand  
Of those little green men in my mind.

They'll succeed you know  
We stand no chance at all  
They control our crops and our  
Banks and the fuel for the cars  
That we drive  
We're like fish  
Dangling  
On the hook

**There is a time...**

There is a time for looking outward  
A time for looking in  
There is a time for growing older  
And a time for living sin.

There is a time for stands united  
A time to admit the fall  
There is a time for glancing backward  
And a time to accept the call.

Please accept the call  
And fall from pious heights  
Heights you self-proclaimed  
Pious in your mind  
Fall now – accept the blame.

There is a time for being silent  
A time for righteous voice  
There is a time for peaceful protest  
And a time to make a choice.

There is a time for doing nothing  
A time to make amends  
There is a time for standing rigid  
And a time the branch must bend.

Please bend for America  
And fall from pious heights  
Heights you self-proclaimed  
Pious in your mind  
Fall now – accept the blame.

## **Future**

What is the next step  
When the factories have gone  
And the steel mills have closed  
And the mighty smoke stacks of Allentown  
Cease to billow and blow?

When Flint is a ghost town  
And Sacramento is gridlocked in red ink  
When prisons reap more than schoolhouses  
And a dollar won't buy a cup of coffee  
Here or in a third world country?

The next step is to stand  
To rise above the masked oppression  
The next step is to take back our freedom  
And live the lives our forefathers intended...  
Or is this it?