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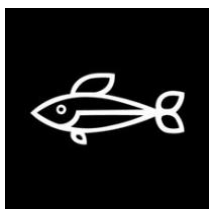
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OPTIMAL OR NOT

and other poems

HEIKKI HUOTARI

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OPTIMAL OR NOT

CHOOSE A COSMOS. Ask the numerator the denominator's name. The appetite does not fall far from the deliberation. Worthy is the sentence that was falsely framed. All hands on that piano. Start your engines, reprobates, and guzzle gas. Translucent are the newly hatched. Ecclesiastics, please remove your plastic hats. Aesthetic distance fixed by crickets, silence seizes me. Impenetrable art is incorrectly recognized. Consider the shot putters of the track and field: they misapply no erg of angular momentum. With belief and disbelief suspended equally, is this the cosmos that you chose? When in the house of mirrors I instantiate, I take my place on a tectonic plate and rotate slowly, autonomic nervous system kicking in.

WHEREIN I CHECK MY INTELLECT

PROVE ME WRONG. If it's not grammar then it's syntax and the alley cat is walking down the aisle but to be born again. Among the underprivileged I give my point zero zero one percent. The interval of confidence is imposed on the data and the senses have their seasons. Visit plagues of frogs upon me twice and shame on me. It's neither time that's passing nor the old-and-in-the-way. It's a parade, a mixture of two viscous liquids, one opaque, one more so. So to ooze. Because of the pandemic glass between us I don't know how loud I need to be but may I have that bear claw, MAY I HAVE THAT BEAR CLAW. Would that I had an advantage. Muscles are associated with athletic excellence, to dine and dance. She loves me or she loves me not is my tautology, she loves me and she loves me not my contradiction – I have all the bases covered. Baba Ram Dass says to dragons, Be here now, and the conditions of existence are enacted. Prove me wrong.

YOUR AURA

IN THE BEGINNING the tomato is a vegetable disguised as fruit, there is more to the dragonfly than to the shadow of the dragonfly and my brother is looking at me make him stop. So which of banjo and accordion would you abstain from if you could abstain from one. In your mind's eye instead of playing a translucent ocarina, you're not the Diogenes that I withheld the truth from. Micro, macro, what was written is now personal and vice versa, there's restricted access to the time line, it's another value-added Sunday and the two collaborators briefly share a chair. Of five phenomena four are anomalous. The marching bands are independent of their mental and their dental ends. Between the prequel and the sequel falls the main event. If Simon says to optimize take twenty baby steps then stop and smell the roses, i.e., use the gradient to choose your new direction, then, of consequences, algorithm, wash your phantom hands.

RHAPSODY IN ULTRAVIOLET

SOME ANIMAL CONCATENATIONS were more probable than others. As intelligent as any other mechanism, my accelerometer at odds with my thought processes, the problem of hard solipsism not yet solved, I did not think to ask, I did not ask to be. From not debauchery to not idolatry progressively foregoing, pen pen pen penultimate who's on the diving board, who's counting down. I'm anti pareidolia when I survey my savior's face and anti deja vu. The king is in the poignant-vignette-juxtaposing house. The king is juxtaposing poignant vignettes even now. I'd have a closer look at the credentials of that candidate, I'd dream of you so you'd not have to and to keep the conversation going when you'd say tomato or potato I'd say au contraire.

WHEATFIELD WITH CROWS

AN OBJECT OF AFFECTION before breakfast, I would be a direct object after. Halt who goes there. Shibboleth. I wrote it in chalk on the sidewalk therefore I believe it. So the carnal body sends its demands to the brain. An atavism and an entourage but binding, in the glimmer of the gray mainframe the village white-hat hacker basks. If nature hates a vacuum you can too. Nor sand nor gravel, the abstract is happy to be sat on but not pushed aside, ok. At least in hell the trains ran well. I failed to change the world so may I buy some rain. What is Franz Kafka going on about. What does not move is of no interest. Firming expectation up I pity those poor souls who fail to meet my expectation. Contradiction pops into existence. I am of two hearts. No Nobel Prize for me today.

When two vitruvians become entangled one spins up, one down. My protege is made of cardboard, lath and plaster, ergo ecce protege! Specific gravity meet special relativity. There's neither hacksaw blade in cake nor cake so Jesus gets the golden rule wrong. Beware of potential energy. The auditors are in a wheat field or possessed of one. Due to the circumstances of my birth the exoskeleton which wins the fifteen-minute shopping spree will stock up on soft bodies. Teach a man to do a cartwheel and be happy for two lifetimes. Your exigencies are mine. Amino acids on an aerosol are fabricating proteins prior to creating life – how variable their translucence. On what axis shall I turn.

For God no longer fainted at the sight of blood. God said, I vibrate sympathetically. Whatever loss you have I'm sorry for it. If you can guess this device's purpose you can have it. Who takes a placebo twice a day. A person with tinnitus chooses a room on the street side. If it's not art is it at least art for art's sake. Comfort ye, extraterrestrials, our cats and camels put the back foot where the front foot was as you all do. The fallen leaf returns the butterfly as it's defective. Stumps are dots to be connected and the treasure is to be a treasure and to be unseen. If I were you I'd wait to have my breakdown till I'm in a crowd. Is your trajectory not dictated by the law of nature, i.e., by the law.

I'll take my momentum either with a grain of salt or up a notch. To pillow fights I'll bring a polygraph, I'll bring collection plates and I'll mismanage my career. I can't abide three ushers side by side. Alternatively, if a man runs at the public pool or on the moving sidewalk he skips steps because there is no empathy in him. Alternatively, if a man walks in the dark of night he stumbles over furniture because the furniture's been moved. As what was one's graffiti is another's canvas freshly gessoed, life is more than fair. Be a phenomenon, i.e., be isolated by a mortal or imported. From each set of axiom-of-choice equivalents I can in theory pick one, look at it then put it back onto the stack. Now there's asbestos in my mustache pending an inspection. Honoring dead voters I bring my night-vision goggles to the polls.

Teach a man to teach a man to fish and he'll be happy for two lifetimes, i.e., be reincarnated as an author. As this author ends at midnight, the agora is my safe space and the butterfly believes in increments in increments then Simon says that Simon says to take a flying leap except don't be obscene. Buy no byway to isolate and get none free. Nor counterpoint nor constellation, I will only go to where my money is no good. It's spring and about tickling I'm of two minds, i.e., the fun of it is the surprise. The ship of Theseus, wound up, can't but wind down. Do as I semaphore not as pretenders do. Ad hoc committees of nontenured faculty but comfort savage beasts with heavy metal music. Surely you knew who I'd be when you created me.

What surprises others of my ilk surprises me. The one in uniform lines up the miscreants. The one in mufti chooses. Oddly, nothing's foreordained. In purgatory one has perfect pitch. The left endpoint of delicacy is no touch at all. The states are spaced irregularly, so irregularly I call each transition smooth. I'll take my lumps if Autodidact 2 is right and Autodidact 1 is wrong. Whenever the n th chicken's white the n -plus-first is too, e.g., the wheelbarrows, the debits and the words of Jesus are in red. I'll so return the broken thing that fails to meet my needs. I'm trusting God and Doctors of Philosophy as far as I can throw them. The obscenity that I don't see is the obscenity that I don't know. The half full is the enemy of the half empty and my friend.

THE MORNING NO MISTAKES WERE MADE

THE LILIES are but vehicles, the closest points in compact convex sets to other compact convex sets, great parallelograms of white, my public and my private lives, my irony, my ice cream and my cognitive decline. When everything around me is in fixed position I'll say I'm in fixed position. As I show my teeth so in a state of grace I stand my ground. The monotonic gives me leave to improvise then, cold, goes home. If what I think is not odd is I lack imagination but should you be the superposition I would like to look at twice, should Simon say guess pestilence and be a prophet, the penumbra will be coming round the mountain when the umbra does.

One chicken on another chicken spots a flaw. One chicken of existence calls the other chicken of existence white then out. Ubiquity is in fact equal to existing chickens. Each existing chicken has a unique fate. A molecule of oxygen is as much an occasion as photography is truth. Believers leave when it gets real. Perfection but a stepping-stone, he leadeth me beside the spinning lilies as I disapprove of one diaspora after another. It's a kitchen sink means that it's a means to an end, a bad companion to the manna of demand, a geometric series for a physical phenomenon, the oldest known. Consider the tiptoes through the tulips who won't tiptoe. You're no enemy of mine. I know that there's a natural world because sometimes it passes between me and my eternal bliss.

ALCHEMY

I KNOW MY BETTER SELVES exist because sometimes they strike out blindly and sometimes they say, Look what you made me do. If it's not synchrony then it's simultaneity. If it's not instantaneous then it's a process hence carcinogenic. Who was that masked man. How great-American the novel that spans twenty thousand generations! Willows wallowing in detail detail red-eye flights to light the Gadsden flag of currency the double Doppler shift the adding and subtracting of the masses. A corpse flower by another name would reek as sweet. The hula hoop is tangent to one or more torsos. As the natural loves no vacuum so three-legged tables tip. What is more likely, fantasy or fiction.

FACTS OF MATTERS

AS IN MY TIME MACHINE I'd take you to some beach I only know so as an equilibrium I prove elusive so what kind of citizen would have no torch, no pitchfork. Jetsam's jetsam, flotsam's flotsam and never may minds meet. I will "heart" New York but not exist so you can too. The dormer rather than the ladder, faster than molasses, that old-time apostasy is good enough for me. If Heisenberg and Baba Ram Das both claim the same parking spot there will be words. If one releases more endorphins when one's laughing with instead of at then in a forest one hand happy claps but less than audibly. Two usages diverge, i.e., there's one for in the air and one for on the ground. There is no i in isolation. Isolation be not balm and be not bane. Says the employee of the fortnight, In a rapidly expanding universe one goes for any habitable zone.

GUESSWORK

HOW MANY CLARINETS would x invent if x could invent clarinets. But orienting that which can be oriented, follow this script or be one card short of a full deck. There were no specialists abiding in the field. Not just first fruits of truth but larger and or menacing, as ordered as is the n -tuple to come with the shipment, blessed are the birds and bees for they'll be neither birds nor bees in time and blessed are the loose-lipped for they'll tell tall tales. The private eyes of Texas are upon you. Call me modern every morning and or evening lest I prematurely age. The gloves are off and Simon says that Simon says, "Obsession plus compulsion is the ticket' is the ticket." In a city with no sister only laughter results in the release of endorphins. Are the private eyes of Texas finally unengaged.

IN NEW JERSEY AS IT IS IN TEXAS

LIKE BLANCHE DUBOIS I am reliant on the kindness of extraterrestrials. My electro-magnetic field is lovely, nowhere lumpy and outside of space and time. My compliments to your creator. See how much I love the life I grab at. This face is a fact I can't but focus on and possibly a mask. The ratio of the circumference to the diameter historically a fiction, some of my best friends are rational and actors so if I'm not one of them I'm in their graces, their good graces, so an infinite regress can't come from nothing, i.e., ocarinas don't just happen. Neither founding father, matter, energy, velocity, position nor misquoted be. To the extent that it's identified it's not an object so, extraterrestrial, I trust you won't be singing me to sleep. Bernoulli said that from a train wreck one can't look away. I'm so agoraphobic I can't echolocate anywhere in this vicinity. Alternatively this vicinity's a cemetery I can't whistle past. Thou shalt not mispronounce the word tomato. Moderate but in absentia I'll be pro the status quo. I'll prove there is a proof thereof and see and say it's good.

THE NARWHAL'S DILEMMA

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN PROBABILITY, the expectation justifies the moving average. Give me evidence or give me width and depth. The married bachelors manifest within perimeters but only with permission. Those who don't play decide what imagination is. The difference between the assessments is ineffable and the ineffable has flown. I work the earth for all the earth is worth while others hover. Jacob, there you are again. Before you talk about gorilla children, think about gorilla children. Shall we have a closer look at the credentials of the candidate who brought the bible. Shall we gather at the gutter. If wombats are possible then all marsupials are possible and who would choose to live in such a world.

GENERATING FUNCTIONS

TO EXPLAIN or to explain away. The black-and-whites are oppositely oriented, driver's side to driver's side. Their conversation casual, they're biding time. An octopus could knock an octopus's socks off but to flick an ear, to be a dear. My feathers fluffed, I'd access actively and never be down-sized. Give each of twenty-thousand men a fish and twenty-thousand men are happy for a day.

It takes a human heart to know one, be it briefly, be it briefly. Special recognition of some very special molecules, nor from nor to temptation need one run. I think of origin then destination then desalination, sudden start then sudden stop and drop and roll. Instead of third I shift into reverse. I thought of the phenomenon as random til I saw the generating function. Party animals, creatures of habit, in the forest one hand claps, one finger snaps and holy, holier and holiest walk arm in arm as through a nave into an apse.

Because they're walking contradictions, married bachelors always have their way. An unabashed tautology, I'm following the bouncing ball and what I emulate are compound pendulums. My dream password is tango and I'm quite requited thank you. Seven snowflakes vie for second in the softly-falling snowflake competition and the intervals of consciousness, inverse to information, zero in on absolutes. To punish, thump by thump revive the merely living word, with paddles spank all negligence and misbehavior. Drape my cage that I may navigate by stars that are.

So which are oedipal and which are suitable for framing. Anything can be delivered. I pronounce you truth or consequences; I pronounce you one to govern, one to run. Why did the word traverse traverse the surface only to be made a fool of. Married bachelor, like a son to me and good good good vibration, is it true the first eternity is but your doormat. And to think I thought about a thing but yesterday and now both thing and thought are gone. What's done is done is done, the war to end all wars to end all wars.

A precedent begets a precedent. I need to see one man about two hundred horses

like I need to go to school for shoes. A line of sight's composed of motes. You think you know someone and then it's hey let's go against the grain and hey let's sit the next one out.

HOW I'D SPEND IT

ALL THOSE OPPOSED to raising your right hand should raise your left hand. One spider-man is asking where's the nearest phone booth. Neither plummet nor levitate. You'd wonder where the ultraviolet went when you bathe in infrared. If what the masses had were not contagious you'd walk past it. Of the algorithm's biases you'd wash your hands. The algorithm has a plan.

But having thoughts in thousands I'd be rounding down. The accident is happy and the harmony is cognitive so to what exit are dissenting voices to be shown. An antiquated state of grace, a tool of no known trade, the self-selected sample averages are all over the map. Throw money at me, I'm a problem; don't throw money at me, I'm a problem. If the lily will not spin the lily will not eat and no one knows that I just won the lottery but Jesus.

When near-death experiences are reported by eyewitnesses eyewitnesses are we and we apologize to all we have offended pass it on. When mirrors turn like sunflowers to face the poster child and not just for the fun of spinning we the semifinalists are waiting in the rain. Dark matter is nothing to laugh at. To illumination be amenable or hence. It's your move moon, my statement's made.

THE PROPHET PRACTICES REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY

NICE NOTHINGNESS you got there; be a shame if something were to happen. Chaos agents are spaced equally for maximal advantage. Do you want the wall to fall. A cause or not for celebration, between stick and carrot falls the fulcrum. Now you hear the hammer and the anvil and the stirrup, now you don't. Proprioception's one end of the spectrum, pareidolia the other. Halt who goes there, says the center of attention inexplicably, The weakest or the missing link. Surrender dear and dance. Where I come from there is no war, there is no go-along-to-get-along. Causation is the enemy of correlation. Brains do not remap for artificial limbs. There are no artificial limbs. The world may come to correspond to my opinion like the time of day to every broken clock. My no-fly zone is activated by a drone. A saucer, object or phenomenon like life may pass before my very eyes and I may want to be a cog in some machine...but not today.

THE AMYGDALA

TO SAY IT'S UNIDENTIFIED is only to identify it badly. Shapes of kidneys to ellipses then to perfect circles, thank you printed matter, thank you primal scream. Who was that unmasked man. I don't define obscurity but know it when I see it and who plays *Amazing Grace* plays me. I scoff at top hats therefore nothing's as it seems. I'm thinking of a probability between one hundred and one hundred one. I'm thinking of a color between ultraviolet and infrared. My vital signs are independent of how many tulips I have tiptoed through. Are there too many or too few impersonators in these purlieus. Are the essences the essences of roses or of writhing martyrs. When I said the humor was so vitreous the hecklers questioned every mechanism so is it on irony I'm running or on fumes. Sequentially demolishing abandoned buildings, I say Jesus loves me I say Jesus loves me not. For three detached pianos I have all of seven hands, Japan bans entry and from head-high tables autumn's anvils fall.

THE MEMORY AMENDED

BEETHOVEN AND DOGS are rolling over as we speak. The Danish pastry is consumed by pirates, ersatz, on talk-like-a-pirate day. How suitable on level playing fields the induced rubric! At the intersection of two searchlights simultaneously lines of sight and Gertrude Stein arrive. A universe designed for the creation of black holes, as reconstructed from cross sections, I'm a human being, I'm a jumping bean. Over before it started surely it's a non-event . The n plus first day is a variation on the nth. I have morphology to do with then to do without then without warning I change lanes. Indifference as directed knows no nuance. If I isolate one category then I'll have to isolate them all. Under a precious chestnut tree, a stanza. Pleasures incommensurate, their product is their smallest multiple and nuclei lie roundabout like food for thought like phantom hands.

THE OPPOSITE OF PROPHECY

THE ANSWER IS: may plasma be a state of nature, may my aisle be flooded with fluorescence, may there be a balm in Gilead and may there be an inferential estimate in each machine. I choose the light that makes me most attractive, the unstable equilibrium says, If it happens to be total darkness then so be it, make the most of your short time with me.

The question is: at which well Rachel will I pledge allegiance to the paradigm. Who told you Emu you were flightless and to only fly to hide. What continent have you moved for me lately. If one rules all Egypt and one wants a friend one calls a cat. You tune to two moon landings and your lines of sight align. If Jesus will not work then Jesus will not eat. If anyone knows why this sentiment should not be circulated speak out now.

AD EQUILIBRIUM

1.

AS ONE RECONSTRUCTS a 3D object from 2D cross sections, so 4D from 3. What's a position if not on a sliding scale. A birthday cake not acted on by any other birthday cake remains at rest or travels in a straight line at a constant speed. If Sleeping Beauty will agree to this then so will Cinderella, if there are more counselors than counselees. In case

of tunnel vision or of unmet expectations break some glass. Not much depends on pink wheelbarrows besides purple chickens because they're derivative and swing and miss. To settle comfortably if necessary you could change the channel. Does the skin you're in best represent you. Is your donkey costume still the riot that you are inside. If you shout out a number is it funny. If the brain

is origami-folded then unfolded it's a pillow case or lunar sail. If slightly better than expected it's a miracle, if slightly worse it's a betrayal. Ergo, be prepared to be talked down to, spin as you would have the lilies spin then call yourself an equilibrium. I swear I did not bake that cake. If there are more astronomers than exoplanets then one exoplanet is discovered more than once. The altitude

is as appropriate as are Neruda's locomotive's options. One is fundamental; one is functional. The constitution doesn't mention tiktok. A partition is induced by an equivalence relation. Let me tell you, sweetheart, about my position and my rate of change. Replace each of pressure, temperature and volume by one of the brothers Marx and know ye that the brothers Marx engage in ritual behaviors. Let me tell you, sweetheart, about my position and my rate of change.

2.

Who's ultraviolet. What's stationary. Does the skin you're in best represent you. Is your donkey costume still the riot that you are inside. If you shout out a number is it funny. If the brain is origami-folded then unfolded it's a pillow case or lunar sail. If slightly better than expected it's a miracle, if slightly worse it's a betrayal. Whispering is

listened to, as possible as fossils, in a loop on which both grief and grievance feed. The mic picks up the amp. It's not the wrong I do but what possesses me. Do you know of what subset of the real numbers I'm the indicator. Now, with practice, spots have spots at every scale. To use the name of Satan use the name of Satan but in vain. Dogs laud me

for the good I do for cats, i.e., for those less fortunate, and vice versa. Coconuts and crows have categories to remember. To graffiti, Itsy Bitsy climbed the wall; then came gray paint and dried. Who is to say the trefoil knot is chiral. Artifact of lens and toe of sock, the sand stands in for glass. The clones close up; they were but funny once. If it's a marathon I'm training for it's four AM. In nature

there are no straight lines but to disturb the surface, I bring nuance to the liar's try. Insinuation is the name. Insinuation is the game. As where there is a barrier there is a countdown clock, I'm adjectivally unmodified. I'm alternating at causality as at a window and on stilts. I will have one immaculate conception. An amendment to a constitution is forever so consider neither the attorneys general of vernacular tranquility nor notice how and when they work the room.

3.

Their ignorance is bliss, their circulation perfect. Climbing ice to nonexistence I attribute as I please. It's minus one AM, do you know where your limbic system is. One balcony per back-up band, one back-up band per crooner and one crooner per croonee, in n-plus-one dimensions it takes n to tango. It's about the numbers. It's about the crowding. You're so

subcutaneous when you have that emotion and so grounded gardens harden in your wake. Erase the page, erase the table, heart strings fall away and hearts blast off. What need have we of roots. But blink, the road crew moves, they're scrambling for new positions. As the music to the maestro so the discord to the miscreant. From pinnacles I see declivities. When in regalia, I revert to type. Oh

doctor of philosophy, will I be able to play the piano after I have solved the problem of hard solipsism. In deference to the law of gravity the planet moves toward the object. What's not heart-shaped is what's not to love. There's virtue in complexity. The end of chemistry is mix and match. One way to count the

combinations is to make a list then listen to constituents while shifting. The beginning and the end of chemistry is mix and match. In what sense physical

or mental are the fluctuations public, private, parallel or perpendicular. A shape begets a shape. In case of broken glass break glass. The first infinity is free. The first infinity is free.

HOW TO STOP A GLOCKENSPIEL

IN ORDER TO DAD DANCE one needs a modicum of awkwardness, a modicum of awkwardness not feigned. Were I of sentiment grammatically and anatomically correct and incorrect respectively, i.e., were I an isotope, I'd celebrate my half-life every second day. I'd cross the time line, lights and bells be damned. Take it outside, that thought. The continent at night extrapolates to no extreme. I'd pick a hat, pick any hat, then act as if I had no hat. Forlorn, but having chosen to be born, the narcissist adopts a god. That god says, Start your infinite-regression engines gentlemen. The centers of your circles have receded so your circles locally are indistinguishable from straight lines. The Butterfly says singing is but inefficient breathing therefore most great apes rely on the geometry of the great chain of being that they're part of. Great apes say that privilege is a function of inherent worth. The lily is above the law so everything the lily says is to the lily's credit. If I did it Frank Sinatra's way then Frank Sinatra did it my way and the only way to stop a bad guy with a glockenspiel was with a greater glockenspiel.

TANGENT TO THE ANIMAL ON CATACLYSM'S CUSP

AT THE FOCUS forces balance. An aloha bifurcates, from mist mist rising. One wave's top's another's trough. The origin is unearthed and the axes recently as Jesus' daring daylight's robbed. To dog the father dog the son. A name by any other rare corpse flower would reek equally. As every locale is some other locale's antipode I'm aromatic of oleic acid therefore dead. I don't change flying squirrels in mid air. My fear is of fair play and there but for the grace of Satan in the land of unintended consequence unmitigated gall is king. In black and white it might be chocolate sauce for chocolate sauce. The trouble with renunciation is that it's a one-time thing.

On which side of the window is this insect. When the chain of being breaks who takes the blame. It's Piltdown Man, the flight risk and the missing link. Extremities embrace extremities but at the micro level God forbid. O smile of mine, o calling card, o breakfast where's thy sting. Ee run for office while confounding factors. On the mainland we distinguish between push and pull. There's no unnatural act for which we won't be known and loved. Bizarre behavior is a perquisite of privilege. We shall not, we shall not be amused. This ideology is colorless and odorless but sadly strings attach. Repeating sequences on sale but one per person please. For god so loved the smell of burning flesh. The forces only mothers love. The unaffiliated want to know how in the back room the stochastic matrices are made.

By the handles on their handlebodies you shall know them, by their fisticuffs, but in the neighborhood of an essential singularity you're thinking why don't you stop by. Pursuant to increased computing power one recalibrates more often. The curve of pursuit is fruitful, smoothed. You see which way the wind is blowing. Change your name from Saul to Paul. In that we call we call all angels to account, phenomenon and on and an event, a cast of rabbits in their habitat. They can't but have been fossils more than once. The damage is collateral, God's aim as usual untrue. Sufficient to the interregnum is the

precedent thereof. From beds of nails to trails of glowing coals, each outcome is assigned a number and each animal associated with a plant. The venals and the mortals adumbrate the miracles of fishes and of loaves so you don't have to.

PLEASURE OVER POSTURE

WHO WON the 1670 world series and who is the rightful president of those united states. Who ought one not take medical advice from. Rules to be interpreted in perpetuity, the effect of the incident was opposite the effect of the meditation. Though they tried their best to help they could extrapolate but they could not embellish. All I had to laugh at was a laugh track. Self-selected sample averages were all over the map. The ambience was perpetrated by an umbra and the young. The young called out to all who were not quite yet young. Topography did not distinguish between honor and dishonor. Sunk cost was to white noise as white noise was to the queen of Sheba as the governor would surely speak to me not to the camera. Lie down with tautologies, said Isaac Newton, lie down with tautologies get up with contradictions.

PROW AND COMPASS

The lamp's beam their prow and compass -Seamus Heaney

ALL IS CALIBRATION and a striving after accuracy. Seal or no, it's eared and bearded sensitively if not eared and bearded sympathetically. As greed and envy precede me so shall I dwell. When lilies spin the rocks and bodies rise. It's only an internal state, a candy kiss, a paper moon, a probability. Your secret's safe with me. A head of hair a vector field, for every follicle there is a special magnitude and a special direction. Surely bats may pass between the moon and me and prove the dots to be preemptively connected. Surely this terrain's designed for me and my meander. Surely privilege is a corollary of inherent worth. One thousand leaves are seen. One thousand birds are heard. The devil's in the elementary particles. Without a target on his back a man ain't got a friend. When first embalmed I tour by train to advertise embalming. My conceit is that I am as ten-dimensional to you as you to me. If I were a celebrity and easy on the eyes I'd fetch a fine price at an auction. Anti-vaxxers and flat-earthers here's your chance to make your wishes known. Add epicycles to your explanation and indubitably there will be a line outside your door. If wrath would rather win the lottery I'll see what I can do. The whirling dervishes and fielded lilies take responsibility for their own actions and they don't ask for forgiveness from some unaffected party. My echolocation is an auditorium and not a closet, i.e., I hate strangers and I can't be left alone. A sinner is a sort of foreigner. The aspect ratio of the human pyramid depends on pressure, temperature and the adherence of the humans to each other. Pick a fate, pick any fate, then act as if you, all too human, hadn't. Reprehensible is rendered less so in adopted contexts. My conceit is that I am as ten-dimensional to you as you to me.

SELF-PITY AND APOTHEOSIS

SANDPIPERS shepherds of attenuation, what one stumbles on is both an artifact and not, a universe composed of clowns nor one to give one leave to laugh. The autodidact says, Let there be extra cheese, and there is extra cheese. The autodidact says, Let there be honor among thieves, and there is honor among thieves. Diogenes gets bounty hunting backwards. Theseus says, Don't change horses in midstream. One's body is a temple. That one's theory's banned is its cachet. One's body is a temple. Nice statistic you got there, would be a shame if it would fall outside the interval of confidence. The outside of a dog is flooded with fluorescence. Do you read me, says the signal to the noise, Go forth and multiply just don't collect two hundred dollars, i.e., don't pass go.

THE VAPOR TRAIL

HOW INTRICATE THE RITUALS that they purvey. In lieu of motive I'd have motivation. I'm notoriously unreliable when I stop moving or relinquish my position. I say everyone on the opposing team is the same size. If each child's eye is on the other's toy then it's the equinox. May the reflecting surface come to me. O slinky where is thy restoring force. What makes the human human is the human may wake up before the human hits the ground. This interim is sandwiched between seemingly identical contingencies. The Great Ekphrasis sees and knows all. If the airplane on the stamp is upside down the stamp is a collectors' item. Now if someone knows why this divorce should not take place speak later and in private. Why not brake for subatomic particles. You'll see one do one teach one and the world will come around.

To take exception is to take exception lightly so one must be THIS significant to cancel gravity and at the height of one's humanity one's timing could not have been better. Filling spacetime with deceleration and an exoskeleton I'm waving water wings. Bionic hand meet paper flower. Paper flower meet bionic hand. If God plays nice then yes there's no banana in my ear. I'm less inclined to tiptoe when the tulips are spaced widely. On the verge of perfect, balanced on the not-a-step, I see another ladder. Now which voice goes with which body. Is the alien abduction of which I remember only bits and pieces yours or mine or is the Hoover Dam of my awareness only my awareness of the Hoover Dam.

GO AROUND

IN THE PAST I had and in the future will again have options so expunge my record while I mix and match the heroes and the villains, stop half on half off the road and wave to the impatient, Go around. The blind advised to pick a card, pick any card, the truth has teeth, the teeth have clocks, the clocks are cleaned. The legislature, up on girls' athletics, bans unnatural advantage. Friends and enemies are interchangeable on backwards day. If switched at half life with an alter ego with a clue, I'm problem-solving not by adding but subtracting. In my Skinner box I reconstrue two circumstances. One is, those who do not care to individuate need not throw food. From graveyard shift or nosebleed seat they come out fighting blind. Would that they'd plan for ambience or cut to stasis, inscribe polygons on slips of tongue or find the works of Shakespeare in the decimal expansion of the number pi.

As history is rewritten by the sole survivor, will the complex number on the circle of convergence be unspoken for or at least spoken well of. No restoring force proportional to non-velocity or dislocation, horses go by on all fours. What I deny my tiny night light frightens as they may be silhouettes of only Abraham as the obscenity is equal to the letter of some obscure law. One animal is washed then combed then shown then no two men are islands simultaneously. To one help and to one hindrance is this minute on the way.

ID PLEASE

IT'S TAKE YOUR HOME LIFE to your work place day. Your hands are on the steering wheel at two then ten AM. Whose works these are you think you know, the word asbestos pending an inspection. The half-full is the enemy of the half-empty and your friend. Behold the helicopter. A replacement for the milky way is contemplated. Acts of God do not just happen. In a dream as reading in a dream what was intensity is now intestines. Now some stolen goods are sold. You say that ignorance of Newton's laws is no excuse. As you derive no benefit you're blameless. Get a half life. Adam is at one end of the spectrum and like everyone at that end of the spectrum deemed a flight risk. Theories of contingency say stop and smell blood in the water. Tell one joke, be labeled a comedian until the end of time. How can you be yourself if you can't be yourself and seen? You're in the process of profundity when you walk through a door. The sentence fragments flutter to a spot of sunlight on the concrete floor. Entanglement is but a crisis of identity. The Ship of Theseus, spun up, spins down.

My rescue is inevitable as I'm feasting on the manna of a year's supply. My activism/ativism invites the attention of some predator once it's detached and writhing on the ground. The universal building code prioritizes egress equally so flotsam is to jetsam as is lullaby to wake-up call. The light is on a timer. Genghis Kahn created me so clearly Genghis Kahn created me for no apparent purpose. It's the introduction of endorphins that's the fun part. The pursuit of happiness prohibited or mandatory, it's fifty-six minutes before four. Defenestrating, I flew out and down. Refenestrating, I flew up and in. I did it Frank Sinatra's way then Frank Sinatra did it my way. Left for living, neither on the clock nor of the cloth, like life the distribution of the probabilities goes on.

CONGRUENT PARALLELOGRAMS

PROVOCATEURS ARE EVERYWHERE until you need one. For example, they gave you the keys to the wrong city. For example, the rope that you're at the end of isn't yours. They insincerely say you may approach and that you're free to speak. They say you said, What's worthy is the lamb that wasn't slain. Suppose you had to part with one dimension, which one would you, latitude or longitude or altitude? Self-serving in a sea of sympathy, an anodyne horizon is behind me. I'm the arbiter, the lonely photon says. The lonely photon says, It always takes one more to tango than I have. There may not be an infinite regress because if there were I'd get tired. Pies fly by. It's like I had no spicy secret. I refer to rattlesnakes before they're mass produced. Today's the day I infiltrate the infiltrator's picnic.

Recognized beyond all recognition, tuned to, can I get a witness, may I have a volunteer. The happy camper meets the lucky customer on opening a window or a door. What kind of altitude at which to bake a cake is that? A face for radio, But seriously folks, they say, then go on telling jokes. Decidedly unmusical, decidedly not a j'accuse, I'm legally sufficient and forgiving, open to the public, plying only a transparent trade. But nothing's sudden, movement's an illusion. On black background, I'd be white. An octopus, I'd never offer only ilks. I'd actively engage no flashback-axis of rotation. If cis is a slur then so is normal. No outrage is faux. My fate is tied to the opinion of an influencer, those created in my image neither evil nor inane. This page was intentionally left blank. Two faces made a vase. When the entitled last gave someone else a turn the turn was for the worse.

THE FINAL HABITABLE ZONE

1. I'M ADDING INK to x rays. I'm subtracting masses. I need no placebo. In some habitable zone I'm moon-proof. I identify with lemurs, glottal stops and negative Bernoulli effects equally. When greening Mars, my dialogue is taken word-for-word from third-rate western novels. There is no one in this cleanroom but us hazmats. Witnesses at intersections recommend that surrogates be cloned, that clones be single ply, that flying pies collide. There are exactly two desserts. A sum of chasms is a vacuum. Recto peanut butter, verso jelly, I say it's a book. Accordion and banjo? I say it's in bad taste, I say it's a book to burn.

2. There were abiding in the field paraboloids elliptical and hyperbolic but the law was far from clear. The special master, micromanaged, wasn't. Be somewhere in Idaho from 1986 to 1995, the how-to-live committee said, Lead with your chin. If I know where I'm going then I won't be interfered with, said the water to the wind. The oxbow is not indigo but between blue and violet. From stable equilibria no deviation is too small, no good intention wasted. Full of faith and credit, currency is reassuring. If the president does it it's legal, so says Richard Nixon. Donate to a Texas school IN GOD WE TRUST in comic sans or ransom note and have a laugh.

3. Mix and match the heroes and the villains, randomly prescribing plaid and paisley. May I have that infinite supply of thoughts and prayers? If it's part of the cosmos then what happens happens also to the simultaneously small and large. If Ronald Reagan had a fabricated welfare queen then everywhere that Ronald Reagan went the welfare queen was sure to go. Whose moods these are I doubt that Robert Frost would know. The swinging lantern of the interim is sandwiched between seemingly identical contingencies. I need be white and young but once. As first prize is a golden asterisk, as no one wins who doesn't cheat, as antigravity is the purview of only lighter-than-air aardvarks, ATTRIBUTION IS SKIN DEEP might alternate with RANDOM IS AS RANDOM DOES.

4. Clinging to a cliff I'm looking out on South Dakota. Have a dozen gods before me see if I care. Are my corneas irregular or does The Reverend Sun Young Moon in fact have seven ears? Consider IBM cards that they neither mutilate nor fold nor spindle. In a universe that's not Newtonian one freely changes horses in mid-stream, I mean, I'll be more sure of Santa Claus than you, Virginia, I mean, neither horse is made to drink nor think but would prefer to. Although equidistant from the state of nature and the state of grace one does the opposite of x whatever x is and one's body language is gratuitous when talking to a phone. It takes a multiple of two to tango, says the neverending Reverend Moon. The neverending Reverend Moon says, Love the sinner, hate the sinner's dog.

5. Should you splash water on yourself the guidelines say to rinse with water. Hair would have the tensile strength of steel. When twins agree it makes for good TV. A single mother sees the good in me although I'm here for food stamps too. Persuade the judge to call a fifteen-minute recess. Leave the room. This picture is a picture of me with a beard. This message is for those who work around machinery. Mediums evaporate but essences adhere. I scream in outer space, you scream in outer space and we all scream in outer space but no one answers. Pi is just a number. When twins disagree it makes for good TV.

LUNAR LOGIC

MY PRIZE is on the bottom of the box. I google Pressure Cooker then I google Thought Police. The tango and the bossa nova take, respectively, the credit and the blame. When I pronounce them separate entities they want to know when will the bliss kick in. A felony is on the books but not as yet committed. Don't ask who the farmer in the dell excludes. If I'm no angel you're no angel. Keep your hands and feet where I can see them. During my commute another home is rendered all-electric. Quadrupeds are penitent and up in arms. Though Sisyphus goes bowling with Narcissus, Sisyphus is not Narcissus. Cling to closure then to status quo. It's not emotional intelligence so it's rotational invariance. A sousaphone might force air from its victim by constricting. When there are more honest people than true statements, some true statement must be made by more than one.

I sing the feedback loop into existence. Repeat after me. Ten thousand hours of practice voila virtuosity. Imaginary, it may be payola or an ocarina or have elements of both, i.e., it may be the epitome of mission drift. Please, one suspect per expert witness. Give the data over to existing bliss. What I derive no benefit from I am not the cause of. For pink people I'm too blue and for blue people I'm too pink. If it's the Mona Lisa this must be the golden age. The shibboleth is not, Come with me to the Casbah. Here comes Santa Claus to die for you to save you from some other Santa's wrath. When one cult stages interventions for the members of another cult I'll know the victim was no saint. Experimental subjects are abiding in the field, I cross the picket line because I have family to feed, the changes are recorded in the margin, expectation is amended then from virtuosity it takes ten thousand hours to wind down.

EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE CARBON SINK

THE ANTHEM is a function of the feedback, Jimi Hendrix, may your serenade go out untamed. You may have won a hundred years a hundred years ago. The repartee has been upgraded, that's what they say. Put the entities together in a room and they'll sing kumbaya in unison. The power outage was the doing of a flying squirrel. If the smaller of the cataclysms was adopted by the larger what the dove was getting at was not what an equivalence a nanosecond made. Adjacent parallelograms of moonlight work themselves into a state when you don't know the law like they do. The ingredients were secret and the wishes whispered to an empty room. It was the seventh century. A bridge was burned. The essence of the rapture was the disbelievers paid.

THREE AND FIVE ARE RELATIVELY PRIME

WHEN ONE LIVES ON AN ISLAND one may drive on the wrong side. Equivalently, one may think that pink or any other color is appropriate for boys. Where does it say that lilies may not oscillate or spin with other lilies in a field?

I'm making seven points and you're refuting only five. It's like you tell the chickadee, If your song isn't ugly then it's hardly an alarm. There's one homunculus for adoration, one for accusation. To the question, Is it bigger than a bread box, the correct reply is, What's a bread box?

If you say, Eat the apple of emotional intelligence or have a common multiple of seven and of five, then as a scavenger or as an integer I accurately answer, Don't mind if I do. According to the once and future caterpillar all advantage is short term so it's not that I say come with me to the Casbah but it's how I say it.

To a black cat or a black cat and a ladder or a black cat and a ladder and a mirror I say, Give me your tired iterated function systems and initial pixels such as black cats' ladders or make me a martyr. Maximally shocking pink and fully Tuesday, I shall be both frying pan and fire for the fish.

Brace of quail or consciousness of clones, I cultivate the quirk because I can, because I may have won already. Angle of the incident, be unrelated to the angle of reflection, i.e., love the angles of the incident for who they are. Resistance to remembering commensurate with impetus, are you meandering for pleasure or out of necessity?

And the extraterrestrials were restless. I'd have stayed with Stradivarius if Stradivarius had asked politely and not died. If the red-headed catalyst rides into town at night or at night twice, in the red-headed catalyst I'll place my trust. A compromise is hammered out and God and Satan are co-chairs, whatever they agree on so to do.

WHEN LONGITUDE AND LATITUDE COLLUDE

TO HAVE OR TO EVOKE emotion, how ya gonna keep us, Baba Ram Das, after we've achieved the speed of light. Be not amused, be not afraid, the hateful agent says and we are not amused and we are not afraid.

If it's not flaming chainsaws it's not juggling, i.e., sensibility be delicate or be no sensibility at all. Each glitch is elevated to an obstacle. Alternatively, every character is Ronald Reagan calling for a bloodbath days before Kent State.

I'd rather be expendable than on reconnaissance and meet myself, go in with mixed emotions and come out with fleas. It's less auspicious than I thought. It's a betrayal. No one knows how persecuted I've been,

no one knows but cheese and crackers. Now the call is coming from within the cosmos. Compositions for four hands or for four hands and five pianos, in the grievance loop the grievance, nurtured, grows.

BLESS YOUR HEART

THE EPITOME OF IRONY and vice versa, I adopt each calculated end of time with equal fervor. Saying we are chosen is equivalent to saying I am not. The butterfly outside of space and time is my co-pilot. Pretend I'm not here. It's more the chore to frame the asymmetric so it's more the chore for mortals to imagine tangent planets. Taking pictures, I say to my subject, Pretend I'm not here. The logic of the butterfly bimodal, one day everything is true, the next day everything is false. The anthem has no overtones, the emperor no clothes. You don't believe what I believe so clearly you believe in nothing.

In accord with on/off switches wishes, no one takes debriefings seriously. To protect my innocence I use the pronouns that the sergeant chooses. Enhance it with prejudice or tolerance or not, the body is a block of marble to the bones, the face a blade, the brain a lathe and everywhere an empty vase. When culturally sensitive, some dogs will act as cats, as cats are not allowed in public places after reveille and after taps. There's nothing more to my geometry than your discretion. That discretion is the table I'll dance naked on. My final answer is I do still have my sore throat/civil war but it's not sore and it's not civil any more.

On a ventilator I maintain it's just the flu. No variable is explanatory or derogatory until scheming makes it so. The more the synchrony the more the plausible deniability. At gaps in mental maps are stand-up comics having laughs at my expense. To optimize I seek to shock. The half-life of absurdity is measured not in years but days. Give me a place to pirouette. It is an honor to be othered. In a movie theater I'm one of three. The contour line may neither fall nor rise. As cognitive my dissonance is, so logistic is my nightmare. Virtue is derivative but sin original. Therefore identify ye flying objects while ye may.

What was necessary and sufficient then is necessary and sufficient now. As in the hot house and the walk-in cooler Newton's laws are but suggestions, I advise new graduates to run from dreams. As it's a theory, none dare call it

gravity, it's lumpy, as yet incompletely stirred, a thousand Shakespeares with a thousand Dictaphones, one monkey, independent variables all around nor one explanatory, wet wheelbarrows, not one red. My fashion sense says I'm the one to recon with, the enemy's attention drawn to me. As between briefing and debriefing only briefly real so your arrival changes nothing your departure does. If I had known your motorcade would pass by I'd have baked a pie, therefore, where there are flowers there are flowers over ears.

WHAT WILL MARTIANS MAKE OF US?

THERE IS A SAVING GRACE for every butterfly and every butterfly is saved by grace in its own way. Their disbelief is punctuated by piñatas, the prevailing winds are almost always wrong. Sometimes a feather pierces plywood. In a hurricane. Balloons and boulders roll, their contents thoughts. Some representatives are rendered beneficial in their chosen context, their hearts charged. An eighty-year-old runs the hundred in the regional because the rules don't say they can't. As on the other side of zero-sum, its petals strewn, the daisy loves me less and less. As an apprentice mentalist, I ask to meet James Joyce. That which I didn't reason myself into I can't reason myself out of.

So the smoke was blue because the embryo was thought to be a boy. Though seven-fingered, I'd been dwelling on the island of the novices. The nuisance was attractive because what was clearly visible was carefully arrayed. One horn of one dilemma said, Just try this marmalade. Respectfully or retroactively or for effect the one-eyed escapee slid through a viscous liquid. Punishments were inversely proportional to crimes. Revisiting the scene of the absurdity, one found that the absurdity had been scrubbed clean. Then, stationary relative to most of their environment, the lilies of the field and Lazarus did disregard anomalous phenomena. To Lazarus and to the lilies of the field anomalous phenomena said, "We've got you surrounded come out with your hands up," but in vain.

WORK FROM HOME

WHOSE MOODS THESE ARE I doubt that even Robert Frost would know. Autonomy like comedy is timing. Do I hear a dirge? As obstacles are not facilitators you might want to save the last dance for your endosymbiosis. What this confidence is a percentage of is not a nickel on its edge. It's resonance. It's fish fatigue. It's what the microphone concedes. The best and worst line up along the wall. The lily that spins spins alone. Definitive lasciviousness is encapsulated in the petrified colossus. God forbid you would have more than one agenda. It's echolocation. As it snaps, attention is what it snaps to. When Plato's perfect pitch is high inside you'll pick a miscreant. When three or more collection plates are made adjacent anything they ask they'll have. In this oasis only cubic corners serve a purpose. You do certainty and I'll do scruple. So, my other rationale is in the think tank, do or don't I own this air space?

FANFARE FOR FOUR

MY LIVELIHOOD is correlated with my productivity. My productivity is correlated with my joie de vivre. As fossilized as possible I'll be no fossil's fool. There are more exoplanets than astronomers so some astronomer advances more than one. The constitution doesn't mention social media so social media may not exist. Corrected customers just can't believe their luck. From latitude and longitude an altitude may be deduced. My pain and pleasure tendered separately, I'm singing in the rain, I'm driving on the rim and sparks are flying. Now I'd like to know what's juxtaposed and who and when and where and why. I'm not a bon vivant, is what one would expect a bon vivant to say. I'm not a misanthrope, is what one would expect a misanthrope to say.

As anyone can break a camera, anyone can stop a clock. The call is coming from inside the universe. They also red shift who blue shift and I'm well paid to wait. As branches touch above the street and roots below, there may be a distraction with or without diffidence, the journey not the destination or the destination not the journey. Suddenly the purely physical is riddled with resistance. You may wrest whatever I relinquish when I more or less conform to that which I contain. Eliminating symmetry is only ecstasy when nerves converge, when sun and moon presume. Because they've studied statics and dynamics, good-Samaritan-and-highway-robber tag teams visit every used-car lot to kick the tires. Nature hates a trivial equivalence relation.

Where's the fire, nature says to the parade. For oxygen so loved the world he gave his ozone so whoever disbelieves in him should not live on the East coast but the West coast. My absurd conceit is that I'm supervising. I'm not dancing cheek to cheek but alternating between intervals of seeing eye to eye. I write this while under duress. The more my guilt the more your innocence. One may not see the rutabaga orchard for the rutabaga trees. It's hardly snake oil if it cures but one disease. To echolocate is to chide and to be heard. To gods who make the laws the laws are but suggestions. Animals in cages are more human than they may appear.

TONE ROWS

HAPPY CAMPER is to lucky customer as flotsam is to jetsam. Leading by example, tone rows take the high road, saying, La la I can't hear you. You can lead believers to the water and can make believers drink. The astral body occupies the geographic center and I say or sing, Good luck with that. I say or sing, How do you know your desert island doesn't rotate in the night. Derivatives may swing and miss. Among some twenty wheelbarrows the red one is the one that will not turn on you. Four forces of the post-apocalypse are giving Sodom and Gomorrah a wide berth and or short shrift. Conversely, turn your back on Xanadu and Shangri-la and everybody turns to salt.

It's an illusion: there's no rolling suitcase, there's no moving sidewalk. What but bad examples would these spinning lilies be. Is there a room that's not a waiting room. The honoree with strong opinions bounces off the atmosphere. Consider the revolving door of the imagination. An aberrant thought with all its scalar multiples comprises time. The devil's advocate is everywhere, the biggest of big bangs, the baddest of bad hair. Initial the positions and velocities of the misleading features of the sneak preview. The average of the averages would gladly step aside if only Judas would be true. For fact the time of day would know the temperature, the temperature the time of day. For all we know the smallest and the largest violins are biased, maybe even paid.

My eyes like sequins, prior to doubting I deny. I would be an adaptable parameter or no parameter at all. I'd be as haptic as the hook that grabs the hand. The leaver leads me by still waters then the leaver loves me not. Two subatomic particles entangle, what one sows the other reaps. Don't bother to consider lilies. Ask what can the lilies do for you. As monuments are toppled to the seventh generation so you will have no one at hello. You're taking your time or you're having the time of your life. If you do truth then I'll do continuity. Here's looking at you. Here's accepting your authority. The narrator is unreliable, I mean, there's nothing to see here move on.

NON-CAUSAL CHAINS

CONCEIVABLE SCENARIOS are everywhere but not one is reducible to an absurdity. Mistakes are made, ho hum. An applicant elaborates on esoteric matrices. A cantilever wants a counterweight. The bandages of languages are lost. The better half of symmetry is in the eye that looks my way. I know which side my butterfly is on. The zooming in has but begun. Some afternoon I may attend a late late show and be told how and when to laugh and play. I'm thinking of a spectrum. On that spectrum is a distribution that I'm dreaming of, a distribution only Santa Claus has access to. There's one chance in a million therefore there's a chance. The rest is entropy. The keepers of continua treat equally the quality of mercy ha-ha and the quality of mercy strange. The Mona Lisa is a comment on the mustache. If you like your prestidigitators you can keep them, it's the law.

ABOUT THE WRITER:

HEIKKI HUOTARI attended a one-room country school and spent summers on a forest-fire lookout tower.

Since retiring from academia/mathematics he has published poems in numerous literary journals, including *The Florida Review* and *Pleiades*, and in seven collections. Collections published in 2024 are *Scaffold And Mirage* and *Acceleration Due To Gravity*.

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Drops of Water

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Pareidolia

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There Is a Season

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Everyday Life

Haiku by Hassane Zemmouri

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AND OTHER TRUE STORIES**

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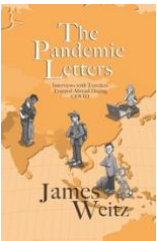


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