

*W e r e I t o b e l i e v e
I h a d a n y c o n v e n t i o n
i n i t*

o r

T h e M o r n i n g P o e m

p r o t o H o u s e p r e s s

B Y G R E G M A R K E E

*Were I to believe
I had any convention
in it*

or

T h e M o r n i n g P o e m

B Y G R E G M A R K E E

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p r o t o H o u s e p r e s s

Δ

MADISON

The morning poem

Sage
silent like sage
wafting about the morning
intentions risen

The sound of a pen the poem against paper
[laundry]
[coffee] o coffee o coffee is time
the residue of yesterday

Sage
the corner spiders the spells the demons
the residue of yesterday
manacled put away burned shushed

Lay me down for my own ambitions
it was I too quick [quick]
[curl about the fire] [then]
Say justice say reason I will come then

Sage
it is too early to be categorical but silence then
language then
all of the vocabularies then I say I [I]

Clarity the clock is not clarity
it is just
the ethers the questions one and again
surface I remember

Was the sun crept in (2016)

Was the sun crept in the afternoon like morning
yellowed the papers dried the plants before I was ready
it was where I slept

The best afternoon dreams I could never remember
caught myself snoring about summertime two o'clock
the sun hot enough for sweat the stillness

Was the sun crept in the afternoon like morning
and the ambient traffic the ambient sirens the neighbor's dog
sounding

And without moving to gaze about the window
to gaze about the day wondering in my own
voice

Was the sun crept in the afternoon like morning
with a list like responsibility respond
the day is corrupted is the day not corrupted

The day is corrupted
just a voice too soon nor intentional
the day is corrupted

The anticipatory journal

I expect an earthquake today after
lunch

I have five hours
the sky will be clear that is all

So much has happened so much cause has happened
the tectonic plates
require just one more nudge just one more measure of oversight
one more sin
one more bullying one more instance of congressional neglect

Today is the day
no elevators today ok
the glass on the counters

I would like to be at a metropolitan cement tree park
when it happens
watch the birds stay aloft for the duration
as a fissure
right through that game of chess
notice whether they lift their Big Gulps and mochas that they do not spill

The anticipatory journal
started before breakfast like a breaking divine consternation
there is a chain to nature there is a web of affect
I cannot say last night's moth is cause is blame
nor I can say it is my own dependence on fossil fuels

Ask NASA in a pleasant voice ask your parents
they know
plain bagels with nothing besides
I like cinnamon raisin with cream cheese
before I witness acts of God

On the relations of eight am and eight pm

O slight
when it is I sleep for reference
the occasion of sundown is the visual opposite of sunrise
third shift and when it is
beer and rest
first shift is still dark about the smell of coffee for cause

Creation the act of
may or may not have considered
a planet's position and rotary movement to allow for
a mutual spectacle of the nighted heavens
productivity natural productivity the sunlit manors forestry
a reliance on a particular lighted way
is no opposition to the nocturns the nocturnal
but complementary

I went and brushed my teeth without knowing the time
but do not vacuum before ten am
I was born at ten am

To save lightbulbs write poetry at eight in the morning
about [that] eclipse

I do not remember if my eyes were open or closed
the gated community
had me waiting a half hour until [they] came back with their take out Thai
I had a key [they] asked
just a breeze just a moon for clarity having supposed the stars
they go away about the time the birds do start

It all fits together
the complements of [the varieties] [the expressions] [light]

On the nature of chubby health care professionals

Begin

Do not tell me I cannot win the one ten hurdles with a bunion
or sound the siren of silence because
the president is looking the other way looking agitated I think
he just wants to know reason
understand the nature of feline lust

Really death is death what more can be said
the great beyond wraps its agape'd fingers about us all eventually
just speculation to say it all was written
before conception I do not know
just speculation about speculation the contemplatives of being
there is no certainty but a line
I have lived I recall just recall but now

On the nature of chubby health care professionals
the metabolic crunch the listless way of
eating just eating
but I
have an opinion on beef and bean burritos that
their consumption might need to be PRN unless
one is unemployed [then]

On the nature of chubby health care professionals
good natured
my experience has been I say
but I am no advocate for one particular type of nature
the typography of professional's shoes designed for hard surfaces is
far more curious by the way
can you take a look at my bunion

End

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O what a beautiful morning

O what a beautiful morning

light not yet crested over the canyon walls

The sound of campstove firing coffee
nearby water rolling tumbling toward the Colorado

Is a sapling stand for camp for hammock
today the tribe will push there and back

Thank you to the permanent tribe
seen floods and change

The damage of nature by nature is no damage can be said
just cause

Over the eastern wall the toplit rim
light warps down the western face like astronomy

But the stars but the stars
are another moment and done for dawn

The grace of foreign environments is a spark like childhood
witness

Childhood participation
like the time he took us shooting [friend]

I have no terms of engagement but
the pressures of acknowledgement [light] see awaken here

Was his alarm his song his siren push on
for what is next for what becomes next

The orb in the living room

Casts shadows hey
sunlight midnight the artificial sun
is always morning the radiations of morning of starts

Light will not bend unless it is in a special tube
designed for and by librarians
or the bounce of a mirror

How is it that one does dream
with their only exposure to a lighted nature
as that which is the interior of a structure

The unmoved shadows are
contest to natural instinct is it not so
I miss rainbows

The orb in the living room hung
scared the spiders to another darkness
lament

Lament
the transitive nature of brilliance is an electrician
is an allowance to will

And how is your administration going [willfully]
put the plug in the wall
compute

The artificial caterpillar eats the artificial plants swallows
the artificial light
the plastic ladybug

Staggered

The trauma of awakening is not a morning
jolt
a risen body is not necessarily a risen mind and
there may be no philosophy no poem like coffee
realize
in slowness that time is beneath me time is about me
time is happening

I do not remember yesterday
give me a moment to find my list

Just a moment recollecting how it fits together
say purpose

Trying to sleep through the usual get up time

The internal alarm trained itself on responsibility
started counting
it was oatmeal for gluten free thought I remember
that was my only plan for the day oatmeal

I do not call that sleep however [to dream of oatmeal]
to say things aloud when no one is around to wake up saying things aloud
[listen]
[it is raining]

Concede
the morning begins with the light the first glance at the watch
get behind me too satan and get behind my animals
you are early and dismissed [anyway]

Perspectives on perspective

The short priest and the tall priest
hung their crosses at different heights
size is not authority volume is not authority
acknowledge relevance
for the visibilities of being address circumstance for the visibilities of
being

Psychology sensation perception
the environment is a way consider the aspects of environment
the nature of preference of virtue and
what organic push is a difference among neighbors
mention one experience is not another
nor what becomes of experience like one rightness is not another

I do not need to read Nietzsche for
the accumulations of what has been said to explain
God's departure for reasons of pity
it is in all of humanity's interest for each to come about independently
license
these declarations of beauty are proprietary

And were there a source resembling leadership
[said the frog]
it is because the largest and most robust truth is nearest
a myopic struggles
forfeit the stars forfeit a totality of nature come again now
say one thing is different than what it was

The penny index

The socioeconomics of social cause
upon the elevation of consumer participation

The penny game is a hunt for control
a hunt for representation a hunt for conspicuous consumption

The historic attachment of large bills to public sway is now
oversight

It is a two thousand ten steel penny a Delaware quarter
[that is twenty six] [that is Boxing Day Kwanza]

The delusions of capital confidence because
the houses are about words and orders are about steering

The penny index gathers the least the categorical least
is a reflection of those with lesser means

I am bought for my interests
who cares but to say the equivocations of official law are response

I buy for my interests because I am convinced
there is a measure to economic being

Is not a binding clause but a confidence a voice
to walk among the consorts of familiarity known and knowing

Representing reflecting the persuasions of fascism are a cry
a democratic cry a democratic germ

For that which starts itself trades itself for representative value
consideration is material

The memorial

If it were not for death
for good cause
if it were not for death if it were not for valor then what question
to memory

Stone and dated
just the wind
they picnicked nearby before the weather changed into the season
on a blanket

Best a nature as permanence
be that which trues a memory
soon the snow will cover soon another year
nor cause from that which rests but memory

Breakfast

Farm to table

but no to a pumpkin a bowl of soy beans

the reservations upon awakening to the spirit of October

the eggs and cheese the whereabouts of good peppers

a regional diet is true to say

I too will share your complexion your attitude

is a sunrise having sorted oneself [pause] and the smells

wafting among clarity

decide

the first decision of today

is the ascendance of yesterday I recall

for the elevation of yesterday's temper is

the continuity of one's own being

is coffee is a stretch is the slow prow of awakening

cornbread and butter and honey

that is all

today

that is all

Simulation and separation

Gone your way

There is a feather passed a blue feather

I am on my way to vote

And thinking of you in silver

and onyx

Turquoise

It is I

trying to be a stone trying to remain because

The action of schism is a fantasy of isolation

who does not want

A cabin in the woods

by the lake

A good night's sleep a good night's sleep

The expressions the foundations built a studio large enough to hold everything in the world

nothing changes

not even the clouds for what they were

still passing when it is dark I am sure

Never called it a museum

the laboratory sort of

Did you see that [question]

bird

It is getting late in the season it is getting too cold

The sounds of an electric instrument

Twang

Louder TWANG

It is too late for that it is midnight

Louder BWANG BWONG

Like a manual typewriter the rhythm of a manual typewriter

I taught myself

used to type like a secretary now I hunt and peck I shall return to convention

it is too late for that it is midnight

it is too late in the day to switch to fountain pens

to thinking poems and keeping them to oneself

The confessions of a guitar

I will whisper the password *solitaire*

once

This is a car

this is a tornado

these are footsteps realize

one thing is not another one thing is a song if I say it is that is all

Nor a solid body ukulele will play itself

rests like the thought of invention

rests just rests

as loud as potential yet just a thought

The audient

plugged into the wall plugged into civilization

BWANG BWONG

24

The lethargies of counting

Grew weary assigning value

putting things [things] into numbered boxes like

emotions

for recall

I know just when it started

one too many decisions one too many instances of redundance

The automatic features of living as a spectator

with big eyes and ear muffs to escape the idea [idea] of reason

was her glow

was always her glow reliably [I can see it when I close my eyes]

but that is fantasy

just

One two three and more

the hours and the variety of hours what is

in my company

Write that down number the pages file them

so they can be properly archived when I pass unto

the great rebirth

I remember witness ask

what it is to be invisible what it is to know everything like

the nature of windmills the nature of internal combustion engines

what it is to pass never having driven

The invitation was opened several days after the event

apologies I was

waiting by the phone because

that is usually how it happens usually

Skull

The gone skin for bones
revelation I am
simpler and simpler in time the mirror

And in the middle night suffering
waste and age
the pieces of myself

Beauty is different with rubies and sequins for eyes
a golden halo of yarn a golden halo
of intentions

I love you
do you love me
now like confidence has always been

The molt of humanity is a stranger
to the aspects of reliance
conservatism

Yours is a younger death than mine
supposes no control for maturity
are we not all celibate here [question]

Were it a matter of the soul
for what is proven in the course of life
grateful

Lipstick recall the tease
the skull peered to the left and to the right
no one is watching

The citizenry

Entitled to an investigation after her death
was born here
spent time on the schoolground before they got rid of see saws
merry go rounds and the big slides

Grew up with cassettes and the idea of voting
really

The newspaper said a vehicle rollover through the guard rails
down and down Penny Hill
no witnesses
just a trail through the saplings down and down

The thing is
a paint transfer and no skid marks not under the influence
no negative relations

Anyone can die
say their last words in private or silence
anyone can know their entire life like a flash
grenade

Just following up Mr Washington
the investigator
not a lot to go on she was a good driver it was red paint on her yellow car
uh huh
on her way to choir you say
maybe something by morning

A red el camino with damage to the right front corner
was a retired veteran a family man that was busy at the time
entitled to representation
declined

The career politician

Abled his mind upon a reflective statistics
that which substantiates this administration
an election is near to saying a proper word choice is
when not if
the condensed attitudes of inclusion are comprehensive
say what
of the smallness of opponentry no
an original platform is no reference to *their* existence
nor answer the riddled compounds of journalism
like sensationalism
a resolution is in the steady course of the affairs of
a political resume
history will tell you and you
take it from me I speak for you
a granted worth of the entirety of us will first seed the faithful
The philosopher kings are a mighty bunch
wear fur capes and standard shoes
address nature as a political front a political position
the motorcycle the roads
never did say education is all
reserved God for particular occasions like those
community center potlucks after funerals yes
God did put the little marshmallows in the Jello
in the course of reconstruction
having defeated his nonpresent predecessor for blame
still reconstructing still reconstructing
It is I am silent but not for indecision I cannot say
I am no campaign chair for and against it is just
you already said that
you already promised that
four years ago wearing the same tie calling it lucky
like freedom is lucky like prosperity is lucky

Typewriting

The reasonable hours of improvisation
are correlated with one's domestic environment
not necessarily

Because

The brush at lake's edge stopped the fisherman
brought a machete like a solution
perch
and something that took the line under snapped it
could have been a turtle

The fountain pen scratched the cotton paper
said

something about typewriters from the perspective of fountain pens

Because

It is an old poem begins now
give it a moment to dry
damnation is carrying that fifteen pound clatter case
the better is stationary stationary

Sorry for your insomnia sorry for your wonder

I am a candle for the night

herein lies the solution of the inaccessibility of the waters of passion

sleep during the day ramble at night

wear your shell

Something important is [happening]

names are being given being legitimized given a surface

you see do you not see

Do not drink and vote

Do not stutter

do not slur

do not carry a lit candle into the polling station

a consequence of carrying a candle into the polling station is

the ignition of the paper ballot

do not drink and vote it is

a four year hangover called conscience

she gave so much

but she did not understand what I have yet to understand

yet is in my path

the dis ease of the circumference of my being is

the expectation of a senator to say peace like Nixon

waving an index and middle finger no

you are not a crook unless

you say peace is what you say peace is

a legislator handled a reelection question in whatever way because

there was no opponent

ok

drink and vote do I not have every reason to drink and vote

it is medicinal imperial stout

with an offset notes of cherry and smoke

do I need my ID but I walked it is a fresh november clean

like a ballot Thomas Jefferson the father of parties wrote

[slavery]

I

you are beautiful I blame you for being beautiful

herald what will the paper say mañana and what is expected of me

who to answer to but I [I]

do not itch your crotch

do not burp do not carry in a pale ale in a can put it in a paper cup

has anyone ever told you your eyes are [want] when they are glazed

[question]

[it is a question] it is a question it is one big question

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Slime

Slime oozed from his tear ducts

and the smile the smile the artificial smile

his nostrils flared

It was the count of ten the fuse like a parent who counts at their offspring

when it is time to go now

I have been alone before

found my way home it is part of the process of aging

learning

does not stop at the end of post graduate work

when they tell you about money

He had been there all of his life

moving containers putting containers in containers

It was the new guy

slimed before he ever came to here slimed his own way

thus a conflict leads to a measure of conclusion

does it not lead to a measure of conclusion like the advancement of war in the interest of peace

I use a q tip to swab the slime from my ears in the morning but

I still do not know all of the languages

The Council for the Regulation of Slime

issues an order

words words

No I do not want to kiss you put away your knife

it is

just so damn interesting learning a new language like one of the varieties of sign language

no I still have my trachea yes I still smoke

I need to go punch out

[now]

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Daydream believer

Sunrise asleep for having risen hours before
down again drifted
near the surface of consciousness of liminal being o wonder
how the facts become facts
were I to have no cause for what occurs then
what of free will the idea of free will
There is a bearer of standards say God the immutable and
were I to live within measured frames measured instances
the satisfaction of choice is an alternating reality
[was I drooling] [sorry]
sing praise for that which cannot be controlled
[because]
the church the community center the school with no walls
altruism is an ice cream cone called gladness
the sense of wonder is a walk through creation through a field of balloons
the unfinished poem is an arbitrary prompt
wrote itself to a conclusive ambiguity and a spot away from words
was a she like attention now
just an act of description and interpretation
o
things
can happen which do not happen I believe
a dream were its own ends a dream were cause for not setting an alarm
the back door is open to an Indian summer evening
that is all

I can never come down I went up and a new floor was installed
hardwood
I have not developed a fear of elevators yet
I am working on that
Is there a pause button to that dream
I have a question

The bobber

Flapped and swam and sunk and surfaced
again and again

Whether analytic philosophy is compatible with existential philosophy
I do not know

It is a question to psychology
it is always a question to psychology [resolved]

Hold that [bracket] that
let us return to [that] after

That
is the right answer the correct answer

The unvarnished truth is
a fear of flying is like irrationalism is a Dali portrait of his cotton gowned flowerheaded mother

It was over Ireland when the storm dropped the plane many thousands of feet
half of the existentialists were smiling

Take a closer look at that engine
something to do with gaskets I am sure

The analytic party had a theme
suppose one thing and apply [things] from there

Like logic is a musical instrument
logic assumes one pay their bills like a pragmatist like a diet idealist

One big picture unto the next
social intercourse is a sweaty affair among those who cannot be denied

Profound nature

I had no part in this but this time forward
advance
the mowed lawns the gardens the fences are mine
reclamation is wait is return
to that which is before my being
the dam let the waterfall
the grid let the coal away to mountains for solar ways
what it is I live within say adaptation
unto the brothered force of natural existence
man is natural
shares the features of animals man is unnatural
for his thought for her ways for thumbs
the genius of tools
four hundred acres cleared for agrarian progress
and when intuition is capped there is another idea another idea
and were my own creation so compatible to warrant
a prosperity of other species I say
I am an environmentalist perhaps a rationalist
a lover of legacy
the buildings soared into the sky nearly brushing the airplanes
the domestic birds
just time for what is next for the transfer unto the next faith
like an allowance [allowance]
for nature's original state
because what is authority is several generations' sight
there is no such thing as ambition as spectator
the clouds were not clouds at all
I still counted an elephant an angel a house from the perspective of
a city park
the bears were pushed to suburbs
made to drive mini vans
before what is developed returns from my own inside
call nature

A man punched a homeless man in the head rendering him unconscious

There is no station for you
no one cares to see *that*
some carry their homes with them like tortoises getting stuck at curbs
getting caught in nets
the streetsweeper at three am
down on one's luck
captured by a social worker with a camera
an intimate knowledge of social systems is a sympathetic nod to cause
say this is the present
is eminent domain which shuffles one's love
given a sleeping bag
most bruises go away nor a tears for pain
fifty years of history is what one climbs into I am sure
my greatest memory is a childhood visit to several national parks
or a ski trip to that mountain
or falling in love
[match that]
let the dead bury the dead [what it is] [for to want for nothing] [again]
[nothing]
let the dead bury the dead
his face was red and contorted and ugly [the hitter]
exclusion is not inclusion is no reference to politics is reference to politics
lost a radio battery in the process
[struck]
batteries are expensive the good ones are
there is no dignity for you there is no station for you
What this world needs
is

The currency of youth

It is so fast the process of aging
into the possibilities of a savings account a coffee can bank
reflect upon fair trade value for value
a comic book for a baseball time for time

The appreciation of belonging is reference
one does mind the cause of modernity of being
it was *that* hat
never was traded never was worn except for dust

Some [things] are worth more than other [things]
the early sight of philosophy of economics is to
want is to loss is to change among an otherwise stillness of having
nothing of notice nothing of remembrance

And to give
is a spirit of generosity is an unformed effort
for to have a proper insights and without the varnishment of
age

Reflect

is now a box a cabinet of curiosity in the garage once a year return
to what starts an ambition to first employment
[it was a stereo]

A favorite toy a favorite object see
the transit of desire mentions what is sacred what cannot be auctioned
[my grandfather gave me that]
[clock]

Shoe in

Two weeks is a final campaign the pollsters win
regardless
without regard
it is a Jesuit institution just like the Pope Chandelier
mentioning condoms and rape and abortion
the riddle of voter registration is a convent figuring
the mobilization of the disenfranchised is compatible with a religious integrity because
long ago
one thing meant another like it does today
everyone cannot go to congress because there is no building large enough
besides
leadership assumes one knows more than another
but that is only reason
it is a lawyer captured the intentions of the woman who
becomes his campaign manager
just a story that is all just a story
two weeks and all the train stops are pulled with a margin of error of two points
leads by eight points
shoe in
no one doubted I did not doubt
his slow character his slow resolve his slow freedom
like a recipe for a platform
there are those within a representative constitutional democracy who
lie in wait
withdraw a public instinct for disillusionment or mention
the wishy washy product upon the establishment of newness is
irreversible it is
two thousand and eighteen years into a common era and
manufactured against last year like impatience
a valid measure of want is a concerted majority saying saying
I
have more x's than you

The trust of public authority is spectacle
erodes upon a said finished freedoms it is
one system and another a set a governed set
is service to an office

The crookeries of transparency the shape of transparency
is deviance nor deviant intentions but reflect
what is taken is not returned the likes of
an expected redistribution an expected governance

Of resources claim
access to a futures after these four years for
public service is a jest of good will and an abled continuation
prove

Prove
a house is a house prove the ethics of leadership are a dare
the binderies of congress within a one party system are words
just words

To convince others is not my burden
but to say *his* is not logic is not reason is not service
no
this is not reconstruction this is silence

Away the concert of conformity
she wore a glad smile was young and wore a glad smile
like the affected
I was not invited [aye]

See the clouds
beneath me
forming governments satisfying governments eating governments
[staying]
like a balloon larger than the entropy contained within
[one thing is better than another thing]
[was a frog for perspective]
[built a home on another frog's pond]
it is early to say that winter is no season but here nevertheless
requires extra
entitlements like gravity and wellness
[they billow] [how]
one cloud proves another grows into a single city like jurisdiction
the night
collects all favors and calls them stars thank you
for outward is a peer a perplexing peer [I have a question] [again]
I had forgotten [I have a question] it is just
the teleologies of astronomy are more astronomy
it may be enough to rest float down upon an idea
forget what truth
forget what arrangements of truth

I went to the convenience store paid in quarters
cigarettes chimichanga slushee
they always give me that look I did not mention
they were bicentennial quarters
one curb is not necessarily another curb depends on several things

See the clouds
about
some days they are gone
altogether