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Moments as they pass

Jesus Armenta

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Moments as They Pass

An Honors Capstone Project Presented to
the Faculty of the
Honors College
James Madison University

by Jesus Cayetano Armenta

May 2019

Accepted by the faculty of the Honors College, James Madison University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Honors College.

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moments as they pass

by

jesus armenta

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life, time crisis, & search for self

morning commute

the more i achieve
the less i feel i've accomplished
treadmill progression
career obsession

get to work
pay attention
a new assignment
office confinement

i yearn for the open fields
a dose of mountain air
free from your time
a life that is mine

darjeeling

looking at myself
in the reflection
of my tea
wondering what it means
what it means to be
to be something
something else
entirely

misperception

no one sees me for me
all they see is what can't be
a stumble, a failure, a limitation
a wrong path, a stutter, a hesitation

no one sees me for me
a metal lock that has no key
a song for no one to hear
a head filled with anxiety and fear

i open my mouth
nothing comes out
i open my mind
only patterns and rhyme

it hides the truth
the pain of youth
the blame is on us
the blame is on you

i sit here awake
at odd times in the night
my thoughts in the sky
a string cut from the kite

is it a matter of time?
or just a matter of timing?

are we ships lost at sea?

do our clouds have silver linings?

louisiana

you've turned my trees
upside down
and my skies
inside out

as i took
that last bite
it all disappeared
before my eyes

i often wonder how far
the horizon lingers
as i trace the clouds
with my fingers

i guess i'll never know
for certain
but for now
i'll wander off
into the ocean

detonation

we are finite
we are ticking time bombs
with an unknown timer
ready to burst at any second
wait
what's that sound?

apathy

the faint infomercial glow
illuminates my room

it's late
i can't sleep again

another day
on the count

the x's
on my calendar
seem
never ending

i'm starting to feel like
a background character
in my own movie

stuck

have you ever felt stuck?
i agree, me too
it's like you're trying to run
but the floor has become glue

you yell out for help
not one single reply
you wish to be free
as free as the sky

feeling trapped
cuts like a knife
you're stuck in this place
this body
this life

the glue has started to seep
within my brain
it's sticking my thoughts
to all that's insane

now you are stuck
inside and out
no use in a scream
a cry
or a shout

you imagine a world
a world free of glue
you imagine
if unstuck
all the things you could do

but alas
the glue is drying
can't break free
despite all the trying

time with its ebbs and its flows
how long will you be stuck?
nobody knows

it's tough to endure
be conscious of you
don't forget it's your world
don't step in the glue

pending

the end has no end
it's always a start
all you have is all you are
your mind and your heart

hello to goodbye
now to back then
new lessons to be learned
strangers and friends

decay to rebirth
sunset to sunrise
more places to go
more sights for your eyes

another door to close
a new door to open
something to be fixed
something to be broken

this is your life
keep pressing on
not a second to waste
before it's all gone

wander

on a walk
i notice things
clouds in the sky
children on swings

on a walk
i look and see
i see the world
and they see me

so many people
out on the block
birds in the air
aligned with their flock

a couple holding hands
little girls drawing with chalk
it's funny what you find
while out on a walk

translation

the man with no age
meets the man from nowhere
they sit down oceanside
for a discussion
one speaks in german
the other in russian

one says "ha! you are a man from nowhere
you have no home to return or one to discover."
the other replies
"what you say is true
this you uncovered
but you are a man with no age
never able to find the peace which you seek
you yearn to see the meaning of your life
but you can never get closer than a peek

i am from nowhere in search of a somewhere
just as the situation you find yourself
you can see we aren't so different
we both have no start to reminisce
or an end to dread
all we have is the transition of day to day
as we close our eyes before bed

i can never settle
and you can never

release the reigns of time
but i'll let you in on a secret...
we're not real
we're only thoughts
cascading within a young man's mind."

blur

i can't tell
if i simply fell asleep
or if i've finally woken up

strange to me
how similar it seems
to sleep in reality
and wake in a dream
to hear the ocean roar
to hear a child scream

i look around
only to find myself in space
losing track of time
losing sense of place

treasure

rediscovering myself
in the depths
of my own oceans
like sunken treasure
i see all the pieces
of my soul
encased within

rarer than gold and silver
could ever be
all along
it laid beneath me

i'll leave
what i no longer need
and take
what's always been with me
a photo
a poem
a symphony

i want to thank you
for helping me find
the scuba gear
i thought i had
thrown away
long ago

i started to see life
as a single planted tree
but i'm remembering now
life for me
is as vast as the sea

onlooker's overlook

the onlookers sat
day after day
above the ocean
looking off
into the distance
a blurring of sky
and horizon
contemplating
their existence

the insobriety variety

sweet inebriated dreams
can somehow distract me
from all the real pains
from all the loud screams
when it becomes too apparent
the mixture obscures
those fleeting feelings

departure

do you ever get the sense
that you're watching someone else?
as the days tick one by one
and you sit all by yourself

wouldn't you like to know
where your life is gonna go?
the music loses its touch
the plants no longer grow

then i think back
to a time i knew before
was it all just a dream?
i'm walking out that door

window view

everyday
i look out my window
and admire all i see
formation of meaning
gets tucked away
within the seconds
that slip from
me

observation

weirdly placed rooftop garden
hidden from plain view
people would love it
if only they knew
i thought to myself
why even put this here...
who's going to see?

then i realized
the answer
to my question
well i can see
and perhaps
that should be
good enough
for me

here

“you are here”

i saw on a sign in my classroom auditorium

and to think i thought “i love you” was
a powerful three word sequence

you are here... but want to be there

you are here in life

you are here in this classroom

you are here in your mind

you are here with your time

after some thinking...

i've come to this conclusion

anywhere but here

one track mind

my train of thought
diverges too easily
these days
a captive passenger
peering out
at the fractured skyline of mindset
with no clear horizon in sight

for as far as the eyes can see
there is only track and trail
destination is as distant
as the satisfaction
of sweet forgotten memory
disrupted by disappointment
and time

cost

as bad as i want
to progress
to move forward
with my life
i know
it comes with a price
the price
of seeing it
pass me by

though i may be confined
in this room
i am young
i am capable
i am potential

once i exit
i leave all this behind
desperate
for more time

the island

here on the island
i saw you smiling
i saw you waving your hand

here on the island
i saw you crying
i saw you wiping your tears

here on the island
it's a big place to hide in
hide in my shelter in fear

this island is wild
i'm lost like a child
who can't find his mom in the store

i search in a panic
i grow frantic and manic
darling won't you ease my mind?

the sun over the island
it burns and it's blinding
where do i go from here?

you see this life is an island
surrounded by waves of hoping and timing
i'll build my own raft back to shore

never say that it's worthless
that there isn't a purpose
i'll keep looking despite what is said

though indeed that this island
can at times be frightening
i'll keep searching until i'm dead

if you look out the window
of your airplane that's flying
just know down below

it's me on the island

dad

caring man

you put the stars in the sky

you shaped the mountains

you taught the birds to fly

heroic man

stronger than a tidal wave

faster than a lightning bolt

i shall never misbehave

stubborn man

ruling with an iron fist

you don't view me proudly

you often yell loudly

dependable man

a phone call away

i regret all the times

where i had nothing to say

aging man

i see now

though you grow older

your heart does not grow colder

my dear father
yearning for life on the sea with little to do
if i was offered another
i'd always choose you

process

another sight i'm seeing
another sound i'm hearing
another person i'm meeting
another time for disappearing

another plan i'm planning
another place i'm going
another dream i'm dreaming
another breath i'm breathing

another path i'm walking
another conversation i'm talking
another word i'm writing
another match i'm lighting

another life i'm living
another lesson life is giving
another song i'm singing
another pain that's stinging

another day alive
another day to survive
another day i'm me
another day to be

school bus

thinking back to the days
i'm sitting on the bus
when i'm struck by the scent
of overly fragrant girls
perfume perusal
in hopes of luring their suitors
a time of delayed assurance
the attraction was simple then
the dream of adulthood postponed

dissonance

i find myself
withdrawn
in a cognitive cloud
an isle of secluded thought
with synapses that won't fire
the drunken haze of misguided passion
lingering on sweet reverie
though you set my precedence for pleasure and pain
what i'm finding now is entirely new

today

today is the day
i sit in dismay
i'm melting within
it crawls through my skin

it poisons my veins
it clouds my thoughts
it churns my insides
a purpose in sought

the certainty of a new morning
is never guaranteed
life moves so quickly
the end approaching with speed

i never finish what i start
seems wrong to complete
time is quite a beast
a one way street

a design unknown
a game one cannot cheat
fate coincidence luck
my ending to meet

today is my day
there's so much to do
but i'll sit here instead
and spend it with you

too much stress for one mind
thoughts deep in sorrow
my hands are too full
so let's hope for tomorrow

free fall

he looked out at the open sky
from the window of the airplane
funny how similarly it compared
to the ocean

a hazy hue of blue and wonder
he decided to close his eyes
and take the leap

he felt the momentum
of his downward plummet

he knew upon impact
he would feel
the warmth of the water
and that peace
would flood over him

like a splash of cold water
to the face
on late nights
to regain focus

the fall provided the same clarity
but for the soul

love, heartache, & healing

desire

red lips in the photograph
how i wish to press them against mine
steal the breath in my lungs
stain my teeth with your temptation

lover's orbit

girls before her were stars
which now seem lacking in comparison
to the vast cosmos she personifies

stars were always a sight to see
but she is the galaxy
infinitely and endlessly
emitting allurement and fascination

i now find myself
stranded in space

the artist

your mind
a wonderland
of ideas and inspiration

your hands
tools in constructing dreams of reality

your heart
a flame fed by all that is beautiful

your spirit
an entanglement of fantasy and righteousness

your friendship
immeasurable

your love
a work of art

iris

all my life
i despised my brown eyes

i was searching for blue

i've come to discover
that maybe green is my color

i guess all along
i was looking
for you

devotion

just when i thought the war was lost
when the clouds seemed too heavy
out of thin air you appear
a spectacle of a premiere

how pleasant your arrival
how beautiful your smile

i can't predict our direction
nor can i infer our story
but i do hope "us"
becomes a new category

my heart has always been an ipod
more or less on "shuffle"
but ever since fate has allowed us to meet
you've set me to "repeat"

a heavy metal romance
a rock n' roll attraction
a dreamy indie pop haze
a new wave connection

your voice spins in my head like a record
i've come to really enjoy the tune
as we lay beneath the sheets
covering us in your room

i'll admit you struck me at once
how i wish to be the one you confide in
i would tell you all my secrets
no more shadows to hide in

winters end has thawed my heart
something has surely blossomed
forecast void of showers
you've brought spring to my flowers

you're the melody in my head
that's been playing for awhile
the rhythm to a song
i couldn't quite put my finger on

the lyrics are starting
to write themselves
i can hear the music now
i can hear the music loud

is it time to begin it?
tomorrow is a scary word
but the future seems less grim
with you in it

emotion

from the deep sea down under
to the stars up above
something was growing
a deep rooted love

your smile so radiant
your eyes so enchanting
more picturesque than the sunset
commence the romancing

hand in hand
attached to the hip
eyes upon eyes
lips against lips

a familiar idea
a foreign feeling
temperature rising
shot through the ceiling

internal discovery
checking the facts
finding clues
tracing the tracks

a story seamed together
a blending of one

a flight ready for takeoff
our life has begun

baby i'm yours

whenever we're together
whenever we're apart
the love that you have shown me
comes pulsing through my heart

an ignition of passion
a spark of true joy
it is you that i'm after
a girl for a boy

your voice a sweet sound
your eyes a deep blue
the missing piece i need
i have found in you

an electric touch
a kiss beneath the starry night
an enchanting gaze
a dance below the vibrant lights

always on my mind
a beautiful dream
it's you and no other
we make a great team

an everlasting moment
an infinite second
time ceases to exist
this i have reckoned

you soothe my pains
you ease my worries
let us see the world
let us create stories

a grand adventure
a lifetime together
a montage of memories
two birds of a feather

i admire you now
i cherish you forever
when i'm with you
it doesn't get any better

you give my life meaning
the future is bright
i love you sweetheart
sweet dreams and goodnight

the bench

as i sit here on this bench
swinging back and forth
i imagine you walking the path to join me
increasing the moment's worth

you'd sit and not a word would be said
a soft simple smile
a hand upon hand
thoughts within head

we'd continue to swing
watching the cars pass
let the music play
let the singers sing

clandestine

i'd like to lay with you
under a sky of dark blue
sharing secrets and kisses
that only we
and the ground beneath
would ever know

serenity

i hadn't known true comfort
until that night

the glare from the computer screen
your rosy natural scent
a faint orange glow
seeping in
from the streetlights outside
the raindrops
trickling down the windows

while falling asleep on your shoulder
every worry
every fear
fell around me

empathy

you motioned me over
and spread out your arms
you embraced me
with your entirety
and i started to cry
not because i felt weak
or vulnerable
but because
it was the first time
in my life
that i felt
strong

awake

oh how awake i feel today
i didn't realize how asleep i've been
i used to think my dreams were a better place
but you're changing it all within

it almost doesn't seem real
the time i spend with you
you're a wave crashing onto my shore
a feeling not quite felt before

i never could've predicted
the magnitude of your earthquake
a severe case of romance
a pandemic of an outbreak

you're revving the engines
you're leading the choir
you're tearing down walls
you're lighting the fire

you're a beautiful sky
i don't have to dream anymore
you're illuminating my life
i'm hearing your knock at my door

i'm lying in your sun
i'm breathing in your air

it's different this time
no signs of a nightmare

if it's my heart you want
it's yours keep
don't let me down
don't let me fall back asleep

wild roses

her thoughts
i must admit
can make you sick
they're not for the inspired

she asked if i was going to leave
as she sat there and cried
i held her hand
and i replied

well here's the twist
i can't resist
your mind i do admire

here's the truth
we're troubled youth
i say to you
i'm lost too

poet's dream

what a lovely sound
her fingers on the strings of her guitar
or perhaps
the strings to my heart

oh darling
can i tell you of my dreams?
i'm afraid you won't see yourself in them.

heartbreak

here's the trick
the number one tip
on how to tell
someone
you love them

don't

forlorn

basking in the sunshine
of all your thoughts
i became a part
of every word
you spoke
the misadventures
of our time together
seamlessly transitioned
from fantasy to catastrophe
as i awoke

nightmare

you still cross my mind
i'd thought i'd be rid of you by now
but here you come again
acrobating all around

a glimpse of a picture
a line in a song
a love cut short
a bundle of wrong

no chances for right
a smile no more
instead an aching
a yearning of before

atop the hill
a bleak reality
i'm still here
but you've left without me

clouds to stay
rain to pour
lost in the dust
you've settled the score

a crack in the base
bursting at the seams
i hurry to bed
at least you're still in my dreams

a horrid realization
waves of despair
the illusion has shattered
i see now
it's a nightmare

inquisition

you are the pendulum
i'm trapped in the pit
here we are again
hard to believe it

all of your lies
a vibrant love deceases
a shattered vase
with too many broken pieces

this is the final draft
with a concrete thesis
you replied by saying
you don't need this

descent

your kiss
felt different tonight

my heart
once a hot air balloon
tracing a warm sunset skyline
is now deflating

i'm not sure what changed
but the ground is approaching quickly

lemonade

your soul
a fleeting breeze
your lips
more delectable than
a glass full
of strawberry lemonade
my internal temperature
competes with
the summer heat
upon seeing you

another mention
of the impossible
my lemonade
once sweet
has now
soured

omission

it was not clear to me then

it was not clear

what may have been

but i see it now

a prison guard

an escapee

i'm after you

you're avoiding me

a future

not guaranteed

warm fantasy

cold reality

passenger seat

i don't think i've ever missed someone
who was still in the car with me

it's this weird feeling where
you're not gone yet
but i guess my mind
already knows
you will be

i not only long for your presence
but i fear your absence

a consistent state of uncertainty
it's a long car ride

standby

i asked you if you would be mine
you looked me in the eyes
and pulled me closer
then whispered in my ear
unfortunately
not in this lifetime

wish

i wish

a two word statement

with such promise

and such letdown

you wish upon a star

you wish at your local bar

you wish for a brand new car

but despite your wishes

you find yourself not very far

she's leaving

the mouth may lie

but the heart does not

divide

we were so close
a love within reach
a romantic paradise
now a deserted beach

it happened all too quickly
our health decaying
now ill and sickly

everything made sense
when you were with me

enigma

mysterious girl
with your cryptic words
puzzling life
ambiguous world

to answer
i find myself wanting it all
but i'm no fool
i know
all shooting stars
must fall

delude

i had come to believe
you were going to
offer me a seat
next to you

little did i know
discreetly
you were also the one
pulling the chair
from beneath me

reader's digest

what was i even thinking?

you're a songbird

i'm a crow

you read dickinson

i read poe

you're in a different world than i

and though i've loved seeing it

it's clear now

i won't survive it

it's best for me

to be on my way

packing up

moving on

it's clear that

i cannot stay

firecracker

like magic
you were gone
a figment of my imagination
you were make believe all along

like a firecracker in the sky
vibrant and beautiful
impossible not to notice
screaming my name
but lost within seconds

only to leave your trails of smoke behind

flare

wasn't long when you left
that i began to miss

all your quirks and all your words
things unsaid and things unheard

your arms blanket me with joy
your eyes gaze into my being

like a star most luminescent
as it signals its death

you too signaled my destruction
in the most beautiful way possible

adrift

floating away

how free i feel today

i am my own carrier

i go where the wind leads

i go where my eyes see

i go to be free

my only wish

you had come with me

slop

you're a blur
of neon colored lights
i stand within the crowd
you strum your strings
i hear no sound

but i can feel
all the vibrations
of things left unsaid
a collapsing stage
within my head

fantasy

how bizarre

there you are

living the life i always wanted

the life i had always dreamt of

all the laughs

all the adventures

all of it...

with you.

traverse

they say a walk in the woods
helps to clear the mind
for mine
it fills it

it fills it with thoughts
i otherwise tend to avoid
i left in search of myself
perhaps to find an answer

i ran and i ran
under the bridge
along the railroad
through the thorns

when my body
finally began to fail
from exhaust

i looked up
and found myself
at your door

winter blues

winter has arrived
i've been locked outside
under a blanket of white snow
with frost nipping at my nose

it troubles me to see
you had to leave
now in search of holiday spirit
or just something to believe

all things aside
when i'm around you
there's a fireplace
raging inside

a love too hot to handle
burning through the candle
cozied up and snuggled warm
anyplace you go is a place you adorn

brighter than the lights
more dazzling than stars
you're sweeter than the sound
of a freshly tuned guitar

heavy metal romance
it's getting hard to see

a season without you
a missing part of me

my world has been frozen
dreams too rigid have now broken
a harsh december
something tragic to remember

a subzero feeling
dread has hit the ceiling
love and joy exists
only as it's fleeting

the fire place is out
all the wood has been burned
all that remains is char
and a lesson learned

there's no use imploring
or to endure your ignoring
i'm over being bold
i'll withstand the cold

don't call my phone
i won't hear it ring
winter may be here
but i'm looking towards the spring

transition

i can't help but feel
we are undergoing a change

the floor that night was a haze
of three dimensional red and blue

i received a letter yesterday
i saw it's from you

maria

completely unknowing
of where i was going
my attention was occupied
by this source of light
unable to react
with nothing else in sight

i was taken by her charm
entirely unprepared
her eyes were so inviting
my thoughts became impaired

when she looked my way
there came a flash of a spotlight
as though i had something important to say

i'm not really an onstage kind of guy
i'm more of the lighting crew
i stood there in awe
i didn't know what to do

she slipped away within the crowd
an ending of no surprise
i may have forgotten my lines
but i still remember those eyes

cycle

we're like the sun and moon
never meeting
not a word to be retrieved
i only get a glimpse of you
before you have to leave

you're the sun
i'm the moon

i'd like to feel your warmth
you bring joy to everyone around
i wander alone
looking to be found

you're the start
bringing life
to each new day

i'm the end
the hours that everyone else
throws away

may you always shine bright
you revitalize the spirit
you bring hope to the darkness of my nights

absent

it's funny
to talk about everything now
you are an art film
with perfectly cued
scenes of destruction

i reclaim a sort of innocence
when you're in my arms

i feel like that 15 year old boy
listening to punk rock

cutting out magazine clippings
taping them to my wall

once again inspired by the unknown
not afraid of it

away

as the years unwind
i think back to what we had
two kids
easy living
simple saturdays
your moms garden

your dad's basement studio
your brothers running around
mornings on the couch
nights on the town

i heard you moved away
in search of a place that's warmer

you had so many questions
swimming in your head
you tore your posters off the wall
depths too far gone
are you still submerging beneath it all?

heart melody

i wish you were
in my earphones with me
being gently carried
by each meticulous sound wave

you are the music
saving every sentiment shared
every sentence spared

your song subdues the soul
seems so long ago

if you listen closely
perhaps you can still hear it

hammock

i found the old hammock
we used to lay in
gently swinging
sharing music
summer breezing

the old blanket your grandma gave us
providing warmth and comfort
underneath together
despite the weather

i love this old photo
your smile still shining
where we left that old feeling
while lying in the hammock
with the stars as our ceiling

brevity

do you smile
when you think of me?
i know i wasn't
a lengthy chapter in your story
but i hope i'm at least
a page with a crease
a paragraph or sentence
that you highlighted
and look back to
fondly

detour

i have lived and loved
before you
so i shall live and love
without you

consider this
my goodbye letter
a written end
to your heart
and a friend

i must learn to tread on
into the great unknown
of love and life

you have been
the loveliest detour

past life

i thought about going back
but i realized how nice it is to think
that my only experience there
is the one i shared with you
a time and place
untouched by my present
though we have both changed
that day hasn't

the path

that's when i realized
i didn't need a hand to hold
but rather
a path to unfold
one that was unknown
one to walk alone

soar

and just like that
it was over

but fear not
my wings were not clipped

rather
i have rediscovered
that i do have wings

and i know now
it's time to
fly

healing

i decided to write your name
on tiny slips of paper
i tore them up
and tossed them from the balcony
slowly
they fluttered away
my pain
along with it

embrace

love

love is many things

but rather than describing it

allow me to show you

pieces of thought

brainstorm

the inescapable realm
of human contemplation
how truly wondrous
and terrifying
this place is

reverie

memory lane
how sweet you are
even if
for only
a moment

writer's method

sometimes poetry comes out
sometimes tears

idle

reaction

one word

endless possibility

or

none at all

backstage

i am a tourist

merely a visitor

another passerby

a background character

open ended ending

it's a shame

that the best time we had

was our final time

together

delay

i apologized to myself
for taking so long
to finally pursue
what i've always wanted

lightbulb

the written word

such use

how intoxicating

an idea

analogies & affects

autumn leaves

like autumn leaves
there's something beautiful
in the process of decaying
it's when her colors were most vivid
her true essence
exposed for all to see

music

fresh strings

guitar picks

heavy riffs

drum sticks

play some chords

play a tune

sing out loud

noisy room

pause the world

change the song

i'll sit and listen

all day long

catchy chorus

melodic bliss

in a void

lost in space

cherished memories

troubled times

fresh inspiration

from lyrical lines

the sound lingers on

i know what to do

let it all fade

can you hear it too?

spill

do you ever feel like a tin can
that has fallen to the floor
at a supermarket
bursting open
making a mess
for everyone else

and all you're waiting for
someone to clean you up

ablaze

i'm always playing with fire
i don't learn from the burns
i suppose i won't learn
until i'm extinguished
completely

pursuit

me

i haven't really tasted
my metaphorical hawaii yet
but i'm yearning for it
and i feel like it's out there

her

once you do
you won't wanna come back
i promise

decay

look at me now
as i lay before you
slowly my body attacks itself
from the inside

temperature rising
cranium swelling
blood boiling
strained voice
hot tears
the world dissociating around me

on the brink
to a new world
what's to be found?
limbs getting heavier
sight growing dimmer

i'll see you
on the other side
you were
my fever

intent

it hit me at once

your intentions became clear

when i asked if you wanted the whole water bottle

and you replied

by saying

you only wanted

a sip

stoplight

stop

go

red

green

yellow

too slow

proceed

step back

speed up

retract

neon circles

late at night

you try and rule me

much too bright

but this is my life

with freedom in sight

obey you no longer

i'm running the light

analogy

sometimes
i feel like
i'm just a cord
that can't extend
far enough
to reach
the

outlet

birdsong

i admired the grace of the swan
the swiftness of the eagle
the courage of the hawk
the resourcefulness of the buzzard
the sound of the canary

but i swallowed the dove

junk of the mind

i hadn't made the time
to really unwind
so i let all the junk
build up in my mind

one little pile
after another
beneath the weight
i felt smothered

my thoughts
were no longer my own
sinking within the sea
my feet bound with stone

the light at the surface
grew dimmer
i've never been
the strongest swimmer

i felt my lungs begin to collapse
under the pressure
the depths of these oceans
bear no treasure

as i inhaled what may have been
my final breath
there came a jolt of life
pumping air in my chest

i reclaimed my thoughts
in deep meditation
it revived my spirits
a mental resuscitation

my shackles fell
to the sandy floor
i had grown wings
and i began to soar

internal peace is what
i had been looking to find
there drifts away
the junk in my mind

flight

metal cage with wings
suspended up above
taking me
from point a to point b
but what is it exactly
that happens in between?

what is it about this voyage
that makes me ponder so?
i see different versions of myself
as i gaze out the window

the clouds begin to dissipate
revealing a clearer sky
a clearer me
but the craft always lands
just before i can see

isn't it strange
while gliding through the air
all the miles past
yet i'm still no closer to here or there

i see a sign that reads departure
and another for arrival
yet both words fail to capture what i truly feel
the correct sign would say survival

death, remembrances, & beyond

bookshelf

one day
i'll be
a distant memory
a book unmoved
up on a shelf
worn with rust
with faded pages
collecting dust

passing

isn't it sad that one day
i won't be able to talk to you
anymore

isn't it sad that one day
there will be nothing left for you
to teach me

isn't it sad that one day
we won't be able to talk about music
politics or philosophy

isn't it sad that one day
i won't be able to ask you for
recommendations or advice

isn't it sad that one day
we can't enjoy a park
when it's warm and nice

isn't it sad that one day
will be
the last day?

isn't it sad the one day
can be
any day?

isn't it sad that one day
is today

transcend

we pass by the graves
our stories continue
theirs
a bookmark in history
long forgotten
in the present world
but preserved
in a past memory

a withered ocean
of dreams and fears
wins and losses
secured underground
void of time and space

curtain call

low on agency
decreasing in time
slipping further and further
within the back of my mind

total eclipse
curtains drawn
lights out
crowd's gone

i'm always running
never knowing
where to
and
how come

or perhaps
the real questions are
what for
and
what from?

renewal

i think i grew tired of this life

so i decided to live another

golden sand

i'm doing my best
to make moments last
but these grains of golden sand
all slip from my grasp

i desperately reach for what's left
but before i get the chance
off they go
into that great expanse

footprints

we leave
temporary footprints
on the beach of time
some may see
but many
will overlook

the sand
in our hourglasses
will drop
their last
grainy drops

maybe
we used that time wisely
maybe
we didn't

either way
we will savor
the sunset
on that beach
it's still
quite a sight
to see

derail

all life really is
a single train ride
as we look out the windows
we can see the blurring
of past present and future
memories that don't cater
to our desires
despite all our pleading

as the adjacent train passes
i see a film reel of my life
burnt in sepia tone
embers

residual

after the dust has settled

all that remains

a pocketful of poems

a twinge in my chest

gray skies

all i do is sit and worry
about the time
people ask how i am
i just say
things are good
everything's fine

the truth is
it's not
what lies ahead of me?
is it death?
an ode to life
why is my existence so limited?
the root cause of my strife

hour after hour
day after day
i can't help but feel
my life is ticking away
all i do and all i see
is never fully what can be

born to die
born to leave
it's something that
i can't believe

an untimely end
a horrid demise
will i sink underground?
will i return to the skies?

with one final breath
to my deepest dismay
all i ask of lord death
is please not today

silver lining

the clouds pass indeed
i know it's hard to believe
when the rain pours
and the thunder roars

but the light will trickle in
and bring warmth to your skin
the fear will cease
as you find peace

in a future day
there may be waves
of weather far too rough
but for now
in this moment
just being here is
enough

film credits

the credits of my own life
roll across the screen
it was a grand performance
my only hope
it meant something
to someone

eternal

i see now
two children
my children's children
or perhaps theirs
with such new legs
such new hearts
such new lives
walking over the lot of my grave

with a faint breeze and a soft smile
i know i live on

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