

# ***Soliloquy***

*Chun Wang*

# PROLOGUE

*Oh no -*  
that black dog  
is coming at me  
again --  
Calm down.

I was this close to being pushed off the edge last time.  
That was close.  
Maintenance is a drag, you know?  
It takes all the waking moments.

# **I OBLIGE NO ONE**

I oblige no one to listen to me.  
I have no right to drag others  
into my crying river.

I do not post on social media:  
there will be no likes,  
no comments for content like this.

I do not see a psychiatrist:  
I do not explain myself.  
Does anyone ever believe he has a psychic base  
common to any other mankind?

# ONCE UPON A TIME

Remember the last time we were this close?  
It was in their palace, a wondrous masterpiece.

We talked about how the palace was so radiant  
you would be hard pressed  
to notice the crumbling facade.  
Or how the spring was only beautiful because it was ephemeral.  
Or how laughter masked the desperate pleas.  
Or how the king and queen smiled only because  
they had no tears to shed.

And when the kingdom was no more we sighed and we said,  
“At least it was glorious while it lasted.”  
And we labeled it with a happily ever after.  
And even if happily ever after doesn't exist, we'd soon go down  
lying to our own faces.

That was really good time,  
but now it feels like a stick in my eye.  
I wish I knew how to quit it.

# WE ARE PUPPETS

We are puppets.  
I am a puppet. You are a puppet.  
I am a puppet. I cannot move freely.  
You are a puppet. You are constrained.  
I am a puppet. I am constrained.  
I am a puppet.  
I am trapped..

Some mental illness,  
experts say,  
may be the result of having to  
negotiate situations they are not fit for.  
A negative emotion may be just as  
evolutionarily useful  
as physical pain.  
A depressed patient's low mood, for example,  
may result from his realisation that  
a major life project  
is sure to fail.

It feels terrible,  
but makes sense  
in evolutionary terms:  
people who do not suffer when pursuing unachievable goals  
may waste their energies on pointless effort,  
thereby harming their chances of reproduction.

So ask the depressed:  
Is there something very important  
that we are trying and failing to do,  
but can't bring ourselves to give up?

## **WE ARE PUPPETS (cont.)**

The present crisis has stripped capitalism naked.  
It stands more revealed than ever  
as a system of robbery and fraud,  
unemployment and terror,  
starvation and war.

The general crisis of capitalism is reflected in its culture.  
The crimes, systemic neglect and inefficiencies.

I am cautiously optimistic that  
capitalism cannot wash this stain.

# I WOULD LIKE TO DREAM

Now I would like to sleep  
in order to surrender myself to the dreamers,  
in order to stop imposing, in this realm,  
the conscious rhythm of my thought.

From man's birth until his death,  
thought offers no solution of continuity.  
Yet a part of our mental world has finally  
been brought back to light --

The *Dream* --

Can't the dream also be used in solving  
the fundamental questions of life?

# EPILOGUE

I cannot know your name,  
nor can you know mine.

I am one of the millennials.  
I am one of the optimistic nihilists.  
I am a sensualist who find solace  
in the flesh, the melody, the art.

I am one of the millions  
who do not fit in,  
who have no doctrine,  
no firm place to call my own,  
no known beginning or end.



## QUOTED

André Breton *Manifesto of Surrealism* (1924)

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Lebbeus Woods, *Manifesto* (1993)

Anne Harrington, *Mind Fixers: Psychiatry's Troubled Search for the Biology of Mental Illness* (2019)

Jessica Wang, *Once Upon A Time* (2020)