

When I Write Poetry

By Nolan Manteufel | 30JUL2023 | 06AUG2023 | 07AUG2023 | 09AUG2023 | 10AUG2023

When I write poetry,
I reach inside myself,
And I feel what can be felt.

If only for a moment ignoring,
That my experience is generated by me.

Trusting as if future moments,
Where the pen will fail to have ink,
Will always be within arm's reach of another pen,
I just feel.

But I begin to remember how I felt,
The moment ago when I began writing.

And really the poem becomes a place to me.
Where I find a version of myself,
That I was pleased to share.

As I go on,
To learn and describe my learning,
The story grows,
And the telling becomes less complete.

It may be cliché,

But the poem, again
Changes.
To a path,
Through a space,
Containing perspective frames,
Like you and me.

And the poem grows with emotion,
Becoming a tree of knowledge.
Perhaps capable of bearing fruit,
Wherever processors compute.

With artistic inspiration,
I ask my friends to share,
What do you experience when you write poetry?
It may only be me, but I care.

But not me, the artist, I.
The other me.
The one that's still growing.
Through a linear experience of life, and death,
And poetic collections of words.

Please forgive me, my friends,
After I read your words,
I may not know how to react to the things said.
But I will hold my memories dear.
And I will trace how my emotions flow.

Where you came from.

Where you go.

So then, what again exists, or not?

And when is it time for recess?

Almost, not quite.

As I sow, so shall I reap.

But who controls memory?

Who controls the definition of a seed?

Where does responsibility begin?

Who needs a hero that must be made?

Sign me up, right?

Cults are groups where the culture is controlled by a head.

Control can sometimes only be detected by going silent and listening, but sometimes not.

What then, right?

Who can chase the longest tail?

Who can be the best peer?

Who has the largest registers?

Who can talk the longest?

Who cares?

How much?

Let me know when you have finished defining measurement systems for knowing these things.

I will take what you show me and show you more points that can be found.

And if, as I hope luck would have it,

We have time left to share a beer and enjoy a story.

I would love to compare poems.

To know your deepest hopes and fears.

To feel your farthest transit.

To observe your most distant memory

To follow your longest transient.

To reach your last tangent.

Register your most powerful thought.

And find a new moment.

On a new line.

In a new poem.

Together.

Because why not.