

# Questions I Ask Myself

By Nolan Manteufel | 14SEP2023 | 15SEP2023

What if,

My most powerful emotions,

Become known,

By those who disregard my life?

What if,

My most vulnerable moments,

Become shared,

With those who neglect my safety?

What if,

My most difficult decisions,

Become judged,

By those who care more about my environment than me?

What if,

My least sympathetic moments,

Become public,

For eternal emotional jest?

What if,

My least forgiving moments,

Become shared,

With the most powerful and distracted partners?

Am I safe

To ask the unforgivable questions?

Am I safe,

To expose my uncertainty?

Am I safe,

To wrinkle my brow?

Am I safe,

To keep my hand down?

Am I safe,

To withhold my huzza?

Am I safe,

To offer my boo?

Am I safe,

To withdraw and avoid contact?

Am I safe,

To feign support?

What are the performance specifications on each thread in each dirt-covering Markovian rug?

If these are the questions I ask myself,

Am I safe now?

Who is this poem for?