**Paradoxical Encomium - Potholes**

I would like to talk about a beautiful and under-appreciated part of our society. Now, before I begin it is important to illustrate that since language itself is in many ways flawed, it is impossible to accurately describe something that is flawless. It is for this reason that my simple words will never fully convey the greatness and grace that is found in the common Pothole.

Potholes have a greater history than even mankind, as potholes existed on this earth long before we ever did. Just because humans haven’t always walked this earth, it doesn’t mean that the earth was not being walked. When things walk, paths are created, and what path isn’t blessed with the presence of a pothole? In fact, every road or path of any importance, from the strip in Las Vegas or Main Street USA, to the ancient Silk Road and even the Roman Road of Grace, has a pothole. Now, many people will classify these potholes of different shapes and sizes as ”flaws,” and it is for this reason that every road has a pothole, because no one road is void of flaws. However, I submit to you that actually no road is flawed, because all that a pothole does is bring the road itself closer to a standard of perfection.

To truly understand the beauty of potholes one simply has to look at the night sky and see the beautiful moon, whose very beauty is defined and exaggerated by the presence of great craters, which of course are just large potholes in the same way that mountains are just rather large hills. In this same context, the world has been struck by many different meteors over the last 13 billion years; when meteors strike they create large and beautiful potholes. Through this we see that potholes predate life itself. In fact, the pothole is the strongest and most ultimate entity in reality, for when the great and mighty dinosaurs fell at the hands of a meteor, a beautiful pothole stood in their place.

The pothole itself is a completely honest and grateful thing. It lies dormant, never asking for anything and never acting when it is not needed, yet it still fully shows itself and hides nothing. It is authentic, and real to the core, never lying, stealing, or doing anything that is not virtuous, for that matter. It spends its whole day, no, its whole existence, watching out for the safety of others. It constantly alerts drivers of its presence, telling them to slow down, focus on the road, or even to wake up from falling asleep behind the wheel. For whereas humans are flawed and need sleep to fuel the enactment of their selfish deeds, the pothole never sleeps. For*:*

*At all times, both day and night, dark and light,*

*And until the end of the world is in sight,*

*The pothole will attempt to set stray drivers right*. *Amen*

If the driver is driving particularly fast or dangerously, the pothole alerts the driver with much more force to compensate for the clear lack of focus and virtue on the driver’s part. The pothole’s only mistake is in caring too much, for if a driver is driving too fast on the road and hits a pothole in an incorrect manner, the car may be thrust from the road into a nearby ditch or tree, but this is the drivers fault for being careless, it is not the potholes fault for trying to help the driver.

The sad truth is, however, that many people consider the pothole to be a flaw, and even a nuisance in their ordinary and, to be frank, more often than not utterly meaningless lives. They hate Potholes so much, however, that they even fill them up, and try their best to rid them from existence. Yet, still the Pothole, despite all of this rejection, will stay ever true and attempt to do the right thing in aiding drivers. In closing, many people overlook the pothole, despite the fact that it is more virtuous, honest, and righteous than any imperfect and immature human ever could be. So think about this when you are sleeping in bed tonight – outside your door, on the street you live, there is a pothole who lies ever awake, watching out for your safety.