

Swirling

By

J.Edwin Bishop

I'm drowning in a sea of inequity. It should be a sea of tranquility, but it's constantly disturbed by life. Constantly in flux. Constantly not what I want it to be.

I became who I am through a convergence of events wholly out of my control and yet entirely within my grasp. Getting here by coming from there. Making a choice, turning a corner I never thought I'd turn. Stopping for something when I should have just moved on.

I'll end up in an asylum or a graveyard, wondering how I got there while I enjoy the cookies provided. They'll be chocolate chip cookies if there's a god, and I'll enjoy their moist doughy nature while wondering why they don't have M'n'M's in them. I'm always wondering why they don't have M'n'M's in them.

George Bush. The Reagan administration. Social Security. The fucking NASDAQ. What the fuck is the NASDAQ anyway?

Sometimes I think the only answers are at the bottom of a bottle. That there is life, swirling around down there somewhere. I think that a girlfriend, a real job, a goddam answer is there in that last sip.

I never find it.

It doesn't mean that I stop looking. The whole point of life is looking. Searching. Trying to find that answer, whether it be at the bottom of a bottle or in the smile of a child.

I think I have the same likelihood of finding it in either place. In either extreme. Because it exists. And I will find it.

Once, I met a man that told me a secret. A secret about life. I wish I could remember it, but I can't. I'm pretty sure I'll run into him again someday, and he'll tell

me the same thing. And I'm pretty sure I'll forget it again.

Because I'm drowning in a sea of inequity. A sea filled with you and me and them. A sea that is unforgiving. A sea that sees me for who I am. A sea that sees you for who you are. And it judges us all, while telling us nothing.

The way to my heart is simple. The way to answers is a little more difficult, but not impossible. Never impossible. It's right there in front of you, and right there behind you. Don't look for it, you'll never find it. Instead, just accept it.

Trust me.

I'm drowning in a sea of inequity.

And so are you.