

# THE JOURNEY INWARDS

COLLECTED POEMS & PROSES



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# Don't Get Distracted by the City

Israel Shaw

Don't get distracted by the city.  
We lie beneath stars.  
We fall in circles  
through a billion galaxies,  
hanging in fragile orbit.  
Is my significance an illusion?  
Is all purpose forgotten?  
The thought makes me honest.  
The darkness makes me  
listen - desperately listen -  
for a sound  
that would quiet the panic  
in my heart beat.  
A noise,  
A voice,  
It came.  
It always does.  
Don't get distracted by the city.

# Journey Wisely

Alexandra Elle

The sun will rise and set regardless.

What we choose to do with the light  
while it's here is up to us.

# Hurricane

Mary Oliver

It didn't behave  
like anything you had  
ever imagined. The wind  
tore at the trees, the rain  
fell for days slant and hard.  
The back of the hand  
to everything. I watched  
the trees bow and their leaves  
fall  
and crawl back into the earth.  
As though, that was that.  
This was one hurricane  
I lived through, the other one  
was of a different sort, and  
lasted longer. Then  
I felt my own leaves giving up  
and  
falling. The back of the hand  
to  
everything. But listen now to  
what happened  
to the actual trees;

toward the end of that  
summer they  
pushed new leaves from their  
stubbed limbs.  
It was the wrong season, yes,  
but they couldn't stop. "They  
looked like telephone poles  
and didn't  
care. And after the leaves  
came  
blossoms. For some things  
there are no wrong seasons.  
Which is what I dream of for  
me.

# The God

Albert Camus

I would rather live my life as if there is a god and die to find out there isn't, than live my life as if there isn't and die to find out there is.

# If There Is Something to Desire, there will be something to regret.

Vera Pavlova

If there is something to **desire**,  
there will be something to *regret*.  
If there is something to *regret*,  
there will be something to *recall*.  
If there is something to *recall*,  
there was nothing to *regret*.  
If there was nothing to *regret*,  
there was nothing to **desire**.

# not ~~all or nothing~~

Alexandra Elle

you have to learn to be flexible or you will break.  
it's not all or nothing every single time.



# Not ~~All~~ or ~~Nothing~~

Alexandra Elle

You have to learn to be flexible or you will break. It's not all or nothing every single time.

My greatest lesson in leaning *flexibility* is this:

You shouldn't hold other people accountable for how someone else has treated you in the past. Cherish your relationships and build trust by communicating open and honestly.

Don't ruin great things because you're stuck on how things were or are with other people in your life.

Everyone is not the same or out to hurt you.

Be flexible or prepare to break in half.



If There Is Something to Desire,  
there will be something to regret.

Vera Pavlova

9

I broke your heart.  
Now barefoot I tread  
on shards.

17

Why is the word yes so brief?  
It should be  
the longest,  
the hardest,  
so that you could not decide in an instant to say it,  
so that upon reflection you could stop  
in the middle of saying it.

18

—Sing me The Song of Songs.  
—Don't know the words.  
—Then sing the notes.  
—Don't know the notes.  
—Then simply hum.  
—Forgot the tune.  
—Then press my ear  
to your ear  
and sing what you hear.



# I'm Rooting for Everybody Black

Cortney Lamar Charleston

Everybody Black is my hometown team. Everybody Black dropped the hottest album of the year, easy. Everybody Black

is in this show, so I'm watching. Everybody Black is in this movie,

so I'm watching. Everybody Black wore it better, tell the truth.

Everybody Black's new book was beautiful. How you don't know about Everybody Black?! Everybody Black mad underrated. Everybody Black remind me of someone I know.

I love seeing Everybody Black succeed. I hope Everybody Black

get elected. Everybody Black deserves the promotion more than

anybody. I want Everybody Black to find somebody special.

Everybody Black is good peoples. Everybody Black been through

some things. Everybody Black don't get the credit they're due. I met

Everybody Black once and they were super chill and down-to-earth.

I believe in Everybody Black. There's something about Everybody Black.



In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.

Albert Camus

My dear,

In the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love.

In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile.

In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm.

I realized, through it all, that...

**In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.**

And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger – something better, pushing right back.

Truly yours,  
Albert Camus



# Poem of the one world

Mary Oliver

This morning  
The beautiful white heron  
Was floating along above the water

And then into the sky of this  
The one world  
We all belong to

Where everything  
Sooner or later  
is apart of everything else

Which thought made me feel  
for a while  
Quite beautiful myself.



# The Future

Albert Camus

1

Real generosity towards the future lies in giving all to the present.

2

Fiction is the lie through which we tell the truth.

3

The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself.

4

People hasten to judge in order not to be judged themselves.

5

I had only a little time left and I didn't want to waste it on God.

# diamond & the time

Courtney Peppernell

Of all the tragedies on this earth, there is none more tragic than a person who can not see their worth.



certainly

Alexandra Elle

your confidence doesn't have  
to be dressed in their doubt.

# hate feeds only hate

Iain Thomas

your you say there is  
an *“us”* and a *“them”*  
and we must fight.

i say there is only an us.  
and we must love.