

**Bent Rays: Selected Poems, Volume 3**

By

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"Alley Clown Crying"

Your clown is in the alley crying.  
Go cheer him up for once.  
See, his soul is slowly dying.  
This time why don't you play the dunce?

His painted heart outsizes them all,  
And you know it always has.  
So ride that striped beach ball  
And make sure his tears do not last.

Look, now he wears two smiles.  
One is running down his face,  
But the other one that you grew  
Rushes into its place.

2-24-1999 1:59p.m.

"A Better Rhyme"

Do you really want to be drug-trip hip  
And be force-fed snippets and soul-clips?  
Do you really want to surrender control  
To vampiric chemicals lusting bloodflow?  
Live one world at a time.  
Don't sell your soul for a better rhyme.

The dawn came through my senses.  
Socio-political rants,  
Flaming candles. Gleaming incents.

3-15-1999 3p.m.

"A Hued Day"

A bleak, dark winter day  
Hued blue, black and sullen gray  
Fades to black a perfect rose,  
Paling her frame head to toe.

Feet on snow on leaves on soil  
As I remember my lady loyal.  
Heartbreak in this winter land of waste.  
Tears fall and freeze, and I quicken pace.

1998.

"Art"

Art is a portrait of the soul.  
Paint, write, act out.  
Let the whole world know  
It is what you are all about.

The world is your palette.  
Experience is your paint.  
Paint your soul beautiful,  
More so than you found it.

"Blood Moon of the Ancients"

Blood moon of the ancients calls out to my soul.  
Nature holds my hand  
As I glide through the glades of the land.  
The hollows hold the earth's archaic woes.  
Tribes lost to the savage brush  
Beating without end their bongos  
Craving to catch how the spirit goes,  
Trying to catch a bygone rush.  
The heartbeat of the forest dwellers  
Is the rhythm of infinity's dark night.  
Bones tossed by ancient fortune tellers  
Delivers the lost tribes to each sunlight.

Again, that blood moon beat keeps true  
The hearts of tribes distance kept apart.  
Eternity is perfectly subdued  
By the all-encompassing tomb.

Awaken to the twilight of a timeless sunrise  
Deep within the primordial jungle.  
Watch through the wild's eyes  
As she shakes loose her sleepily lull.

Animals hide but howl aloud their perfection  
As they walk the shadows and early morning mists  
In the overgrowth that swallowed Babylon  
And unclenched her soldier's fists.

3-1999

"Calling Comfort"

Come find me, sweet comfort,  
For I am so lost to your ways.  
My life makes me contort  
To fit all the roles I must play.  
Comfort, come and be my muse.  
Entertain my wayward and weary heart.  
Find some way to amuse  
This old soul falling forever apart.  
Hold me, so content, in your arms.  
Let me hide in your gentle embrace.  
Walk me safely through all harms  
So that I might kiss your angel face.  
These words leave me so drained  
For, without your grace, they are plain.

9-19-1999 4:53p.m.

"My Most Constant Companion"

My most constant companion through the years  
Of sorrow, joy, turmoil and tears.  
Yes, we have just about seen it all,  
And picked each other up fall after fall.  
That is what friends are for,  
Easier still for the one I forever adore.  
Regardless of the little nicknames,  
Your soul is sweetness just the same.  
Our love, the love of heart and mind  
Is more precious than love of body,  
For it can last for all time  
And be tainted by nobody.

12-6-1998

"Forever Pawns"

Forever is a word I never want to hear again.  
It always ends the moment you expect it to begin.  
It makes you long for times that will never come.  
It leaves you weeping when the day is done.  
"Forever" and "Never" are nearly the same.  
Both are pawns pushed about in Love's game.

2-25-1999 8:46p.m.

"From Your Scenes"

You can never know the sorrow  
Tomorrow seeks to borrow from today.  
Just stand and say,  
"Let melancholy stray from my  
Scenes in the eternal play."

Life lingers long on strife  
And jumps fast past joy,  
But, hey that's life.  
It is best to just enjoy.

1-31-1998 10:50a.m.  
25-1999 8:46p.m.

"My Forever Vows"

I've dreamed forever  
And now you've come true.  
I'll leave you never  
Nor shall I cease to love you.  
That is my solemn vow  
To my soulmate, love of my life.  
I'll be yours as long as you allow  
Wiping away every ounce of strife.  
I'll complete you as best I can  
Just as you complete me.  
No longer am I a puzzled man,  
With perfection in front of me I can clearly see.

You are my future  
So who cares about the past.  
True love is something few procure  
So, baby, let's make it last.

7-23-1999 8:45a.m.  
"On Knowing Heaven"

We walked an eternity in each other's soul,  
Basking a lifetime in the afterglow.  
I gave my heart by the ream  
Only to eventually cry oceans on the edge of dreams.

I had perfection, but now she's gone.  
Eternity ended up not to be so long.  
Now I know its true what they say,  
"Better not to know Heaven, rather than know it for a day."

1-31-1999 7:05p.m.

"A Return to Sunny Brook"

Perhaps it is about time to indulge in dreams,  
Returning once again to those crystal streams  
Where baby fish yet play in the brook  
So conveniently close to our lovely nook.  
Butterflies yet ride the refreshing breeze  
Like floating ribbons flapping pretty as you please.  
A picnic feast delights our hungry eyes  
As we feed each other- secluded for miles and miles.  
Under a shade tree I outline your lips with strawberries  
As you recline next to me.  
My arms fold around you. We sip wine.  
We ponder eternity; our place in time.  
On our backs we ponder worlds of wonder housed in clouds  
And shape them in our minds as boundaries allow.  
Eventually stars steal the sky show,  
And the creek beckons us to feel its flow.  
Light and lost in love, wetread perfection's water  
One of heart, mind, soul, though inches from one another.

7-21-99

"Tainting to Rapture"

I have been vacationing  
In the wastelands of my mind.  
Simple perception conditioning  
Reveals alternate angles of space and time.

Amazing paper can hold words, release visions

And melt away the comforting confines.  
The mind struggles to react to reality's revisions.  
The universe sprawls within the mind.

Tribal dance, foreign chants, and  
Primal animal pants,  
Greet my senses.  
Socio-political rants,  
Flaming candles. Gleaming incents.

I watched the dawn through the eyes of a chemical  
And then painted her portrait.  
Such a sight so magical, mystical  
I wonder how shall I repent for it?

I heard the tiles breathe  
Refreshing breaths of the inanimate.  
Their fog fumbled up my sleeve  
Searching to simply satiate.

Have you ever chased a runaway painting,  
Or tried to catch words you cannot capture?  
Have you ever noticed your soul tainting  
Towards endless rapture?

3-15-1999

#### "The River Time"

Stones tumbling the river Time  
Searching the unknown for a sign.  
Currents vary our speeds, rushing others by  
Lost pursuing needs, clinging until they die.  
Swimming against Time with all your steam,  
And upstream will always remain an unattainable dream.

1998.

#### "Tomorrow Today"

With tomorrow here today  
I find fate is a willow tree  
Weeping down its influence on me,  
Always leading me astray.  
With each step brash and bold,  
Something snaps the branch I hold.  
Yes, fate is a tree I cannot climb.  
Love hurts, my heart leaves me behind.  
I must escape the shadow eclipsing me,  
Show fate how resilient a soul can be.

1-31-1999 8:46p.m.

"Two Bridge Forest"

A vast green sea of blooming trees  
Catches my eye, tis all I see  
From upon high, perching the cliff,  
An earthen tear, a gaping rift.

Bluebirds are blown about by the brisk breeze,  
Which ruffles the forest-sea's leaves.  
Winding waterways wander under the swaying canopy,  
Audible although eyes cannot see.

These days calm hearts and soothe minds,  
Reminding us to slow our pace and savor time.  
Ivory fluff islands float aimlessly on  
In the sea of the soon-to-be-setting sun.

Relax, daydream and wonder.  
Bask in solitude and simply ponder  
Until your heart is content  
And the taming today is spent.

5-11-1998 12:15p.m.

"Two Minds Divine"

How can two minds  
Both equally divine  
Occupy one heart  
At one time?

Can a heart divide,  
Seeking to hide  
Feelings it finds itself  
So unable to over-ride?

And would it be just as true  
If my lips said, "I love you,"  
And, in turn, "I love you, too?"

1-31-1998 10:35a.m.

"When Hearts Hold Hurt"

The tears take so long to dry up  
When your heart holds the hurt,  
But it is just not enough.

I want to drown in the rain.  
Send me floating away,  
Never to be seen again.

I want to lose my melancholy.  
I want to make all things right  
Between you and me.

I want to track down my smile,  
And banish to hell this frown.  
Let me become an innocent child.

1-31-1999 6:27p.m.