

From the Bubble Breach

Fresh from the bubble breach of the great whale's mouth
Rides high the latter-day Jonah evicted after
Natural curiosity had had its natural fill.*
Such relatively gentle inhalation and exhalation of one body by another
Had left intact the elemental exchange in a mute conversation
Between living forms in a concurrent conversion of separate spheres into one,
In a momentary union of divided worlds into a common watery ground.

And in that moment came startled recognition of the hallowed integrity
Of an inextricable force that rides the world of awesome wonder.

Now, though, a leviathan of rude and alien construction
Cuts the waves of a different sea, **
Furrowing deep paths that uproot the wholesome ground
Meant for tender planting in the watery rills and profound trenches
Of the life-charged waters of fish- and mammal- and plankton-crowded commerce
In the tides of free and natural exchange.
But now comes a beast seemingly born to suck clean
The once riddled tides rocked by the ebb and flow of conducive life.
Now comes a beast that rides the raging current,
A beast whose whole intent seems bent, in the gnashing of irresistible teeth,
On grinding beyond recognition the innocent Jonah***
Whose remains are to be spat out on the relics of a once wide and wonderful sea.

*On February 8, 2025, Adrian Simancas was kayaking in the choppy waters of the coast of Punta Arena in southern Chile when a humpback whale, probably "lunge-feeding" on krill or fish, scooped the kayaker into its mouth briefly. While this is the scientific speculation, *Adrian* believes that the whale may have approached him out of curiosity. More romantic souls might prefer this second surmise.

**In a November 2022 democracy report (see Staffan Lindberg, political scientist and founder of the V-Dem Institute at the University of Gothenberg, Sweden), it is revealed that 70% of the world's population lives under some form of autocratic regime, of a new incarnation of the totalitarian beast.

***Naturally, the biblical Jonah is not portrayed as innocent, his having betrayed God and His command, Adrian Simancas, however, like so many now trapped by autocratic rule, *is* innocent.

Epistemology 101

Through easy swing of daylight hour
And nightly venture of imagination's reach,
Budding curiosity searches corners of possibility.
In a fair world, children home from school do run
To expand classroom lesson
Into the gambol of sport and play
On the wider field of heuristic tumble and turn.
Such acrobatics should carry
Yearning innocence through both the
Buoyant spasms of snatched glories
And the paroxysms of even oppressive grief.

What now, though, when daylight hour and nightly course
Yield no ease, no ground for play?
What now, when terror reigns and
A wounded reality cripples easy swing of day and dream-crowded night?
What now figures the armature of thought and concern and action
As form seeks its shape; mind, its direction; heart, its care?
What now sets the syllabus for Epistemology 101?