

THE UTOPIA THAT ONCE WAS

THERE WERE ONCE ANIMALS ON UTOPIA.

THEY WERE FREE
AND THEY SURVIVED.

THE ANIMALS ROAMED THE PLAINS
AND TUNNELED UNDERGROUND,
THEY FROLICKED IN THE FORESTS
AND SLEPT IN THE GRASSES,
THEY SWAM IN THE WATERS
AND ATE THE WILD PLANTS,
THEY FLEW IN THE *sky*
AND PLAYED IN THE TREES.

THEY WERE FREE
AND THEY SURVIVED.

THE ANIMALS SWAM IN SCHOOLS
AND GRAZED IN HERDS,
THEY FLEW IN FLOCKS
AND WORKED IN COLONIES,
THEY HUNTED IN PACKS
AND ATE IN GROUPS.

THEY WERE FREE
AND THEY SURVIVED.

THE ANIMALS WORKED TOGETHER
AND SLEPT TOGETHER,
THEY FOUGHT TOGETHER
AND PLAYED TOGETHER,
THEY LIVED TOGETHER,
AND LOVED TOGETHER.

THEY WERE FREE
AND THEY SURVIVED.

THEN IT CAME,
IT DESTROYED THE PLAINS
AND DUG UP THE EARTH,
IT CUT DOWN THE FORESTS
AND POLLUTED THE WATERS,
IT KILLED THE PLANTS
AND POLLUTED THE AIR.

BUT IT DIDN'T CARE,
IT DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ANIMALS,
IT KILLED MANY ANIMALS
AND PUT MANY IN CAGES,
IT EXTINCT ALL SPECIES
EXCEPT FOR THOSE IN CAPTIVITY.

THEY WERE NO LONGER FREE
AND THEY COULD NO LONGER SURVIVE.

LIFE

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I WAS THERE,
IT WAS A SMALL CRAMPED PLACE,
BUT IT WAS VERY COMFORTABLE.
YOU WERE THERE,
THERE WAS ONLY ROOM FOR ONE,
UNLESS YOU WERE VERY SMALL.
EVERYONE WAS THERE,
IT WAS A STRANGE PLACE,
BUT IT WAS SOFT AND PROTECTED.

I COULDN'T BREATH,
BUT I WAS GETTING AIR;
I COULDN'T EAT,
BUT I WAS GETTING FOOD;
I COULDN'T MOVE,
BUT I WAS GETTING MOVED;
I COULDN'T DRINK,
BUT I WAS GETTING LIQUIDS.

THEN I CAME OUT,
I WAS OUT ONLY A VERY SHORT TIME.
EVERYONE COMES OUT EVENTUALLY,
BUT THEY ARE OUT FOR JUST A SHORT PERIOD,
AND THEY CAN NOT GO BACK,
NO ONE CAN GO BACK.

THEN I WENT TO ANOTHER PLACE,
IT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE
DARK, SOFT, SMALL PLACE.
YOU WILL COME TO THIS PLACE,
THERE IS A LOT OF ROOM,
ROOM FOR MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.
EVERYONE WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO THIS PLACE,
IT IS A VERY PEACEFUL, BEAUTIFUL,
AND PLEASANT PLACE.

BUT THERE ARE ALSO THINGS SIMILIAR
TO THE PLACE I WAS AT FIRST.
IT WAS DARK WHEN I FIRST CAME,
BUT THEN DIM LIGHTS BECAME
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL.
IT IS A VERY COMFORTABLE PLACE,
EVEN MORE COMFORTABLE THAN THE FIRST.

I COULD SEE,
BUT I HAD NO EYES;
I COULD HEAR,
BUT I HAD NO EARS;
I COULD FEEL,
BUT I HAD NO NERVES;
I COULD BREATH,
BUT I HAD NO LUNGS;
I COULD THINK,
BUT I HAD NO BRAIN.

I STAYED IN THIS PLACE,
FOREVER.

THE FRIENDSHIP THAT USED TO BE

WE USED TO BE CLOSE FRIENDS,
WE USED TO LIKE EACH OTHER,
WE USED TO HAVE FUN.

WE PLAYED TAG,
AND WE PLAYED HIDE-AND-SEEK.
WE PLAYED WITH MATCHBOX CARS,
AND WE PLAYED HOP SCOTCH.
WE PLAYED ON THE SWINGSET,
AND WE PLAYED IN THE SANDBOX.
WE PLAYED POST OFFICE,
AND WE PLAYED HOUSE.
WE WERE CLOSE FRIENDS.

WE RODE BIKES,
AND BOUNCED SUPERBALLS.
WE CHASED BUTTERFLIES,
AND BUILT BRIDGES.
WE TOLD EACH OTHER SECRETS,
AND HELPED EACH OTHER.
WE LIKED EACH OTHER.

WE PLAYED TENNIS,
AND WE PLAYED HOCKEY,
WE PLAYED PING-PONG,
AND WE PLAYED FOOTBALL.
WE PLAYED BASEBALL,
AND WE PLAYED SOCCER.
WE HAD FUN.

WE USED TO SEND LETTERS,
WE USED TO SEND BIRTHDAY CARDS,
WE USED TO SEE EACH OTHER TWICE A YEAR.
WE USED TO BE CLOSE FRIENDS.
WE USED TO LIKE EACH OTHER.
WE USED TO HAVE FUN.
WE USED TO.

THE MIND

IT IS THE MOST REMARKABLE
INSTRUMENT ON EARTH.
WE SHOULD BE WORKING TO IMPROVE IT,
INSTEAD OF OTHER THINGS
WHICH ARE LESS IMPORTANT,
NOW, ONLY TEN PERCENT OF IT IS USED.

IT CAN THINK,
AND IT CAN REASON.
IT CAN DESIRE,
AND IT CAN PERCEIVE.
IT CAN DECIDE,
AND IT CAN REMEMBER.

IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO MOVE OBJECTS,
AND COMMUNICATE THROUGH TELEPATHY.
IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO READ MINDS,
AND PREDICT THE FUTURE.
BUT ONLY TEN PERCENT OF IT IS USED.

IT CAN BE HAPPY,
AND IT CAN BE MAD.
IT CAN BE LONELY,
AND IT CAN BE STUBBORN.
IT CAN BE SELFISH,
AND IT CAN BE INDIFFERENT.

IT IS THE ELEMENT OR COMPLEX
OF ELEMENTS IN AN INDIVIDUAL
THAT FEELS, PERCEIVES, THINKS,
WILLS, AND REASONS.
IT IS THE ORGANIZED CONSCIOUS
AND UNCONSCIOUS ADAPTIVE
MENTAL ACTIVITY OF AN ORGANISM.
ONLY TEN PERCENT OF IT IS USED.

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TIME

TIME HAS ALWAYS BEEN PRESENT,
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE EARTH.
AND TIME WILL ALWAYS BE PRESENT,
TIME WILL GO ON FOREVER.

MAN CAME INTO BEING,
BUT TIME WAS ALWAYS THERE.
TIME HAD ITS OWN CLOCK,
BEFORE MAN CAME.
TIME WAS MEASURED BY
THE ROTATION OF THE EARTH,
AND ITS REVOLUTION
AROUND THE SUN.

MAN CHANGED TIME
INTO SECONDS, MINUTES, HOURS.
TIME SHOULD NOT
BE DETERMINED BY THESE,
BUT BY NATURE'S OWN SYSTEM,
AND ONLY BY THAT,
LIKE IT WAS LONG AGO.

SIXTY SECONDS IN A MINUTE,
SIXTY MINUTES IN AN HOUR,
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS IN A DAY,
SEVEN DAYS IN A WEEK,
FIFTY-TWO WEEKS IN A YEAR,
TEN YEARS IN A DECADE,
TEN DECADES IN A CENTURY.
WHY DID MAN MAKE THESE?

TAKE TIME-OUT?
TIME IS CONTINUOUS.
NOT ENOUGH TIME?
TIME IS INDEFINITE.
TIME AND TIME AGAIN?
TIME COMES ONLY ONCE,
THEN IT IS GONE FOREVER.
MAN CANNOT GO BACK IN TIME.

WHAT TIME IS IT?
WHO KNOWS?
IS IT THIRTY MINUTES AFTER,
THIRTY MINUTES TILL,
OR HALF-PAST?
WHY DOES MAN NEED THESE?

NOW IT'S THIRTY-ONE AFTER,
OR IS IT TWENTY-NINE TILL?
MAYBE IT'S THIRTY-ONE
AND A HALF AFTER.
WHO KNOWS?
TIME IS NOT EXACT,
AS IT ONCE WAS.

TIME WILL STILL BE PRESENT,
ONCE MAN HAS LEFT EARTH.
IT WILL RETURN
TO HOW IT ONCE WAS:
MEASURED BY THE EARTH
AND BY THE SUN.
THIS IS HOW IT ALWAYS
SHOULD HAVE BEEN.

THE BOMB

THE EARTH WAS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE,
FLOWERS, PARKS, LAKES,
FORESTS, RIVERS, MOUNTAINS.
THE INHABITANTS WERE HAPPY,
THERE WERE NO FEARS,
THERE WERE NO WORRIES.

THEY HAD EVERYTHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO,
WEEKENDS, BIRTHDAYS,
VACATIONS, THE FUTURE.
EVERYONE WAS FREE,
EVERYONE WAS HAPPY,
THERE WAS NOTHING TO HIDE FROM.

PICNICS IN THE PARKS,
SWIMMING IN THE LAKES,
HIKING IN THE FORESTS,
FISHING IN THE RIVERS,
CLIMBING IN THE MOUNTAINS.

THEN IT CAME, IT HAPPENED,
THE BOMB

THERE WAS NO EARTH,
NO LAKES, NO FORESTS,
NO MOUNTAINS, NO FLOWERS,
NO RIVERS, NO PARKS.
THERE WAS NOTHING,
EXCEPT FIRE, DESTRUCTION,
RADIATION, DEATH.

FRIENDS GONE,
RELATIVES GONE,
EVERYTHING GONE.
FEAR OF RADIATION,
ALWAYS HIDING.
NOTHING TO LIVE FOR.
EMPTINESS, DEATH, ALL AROUND.

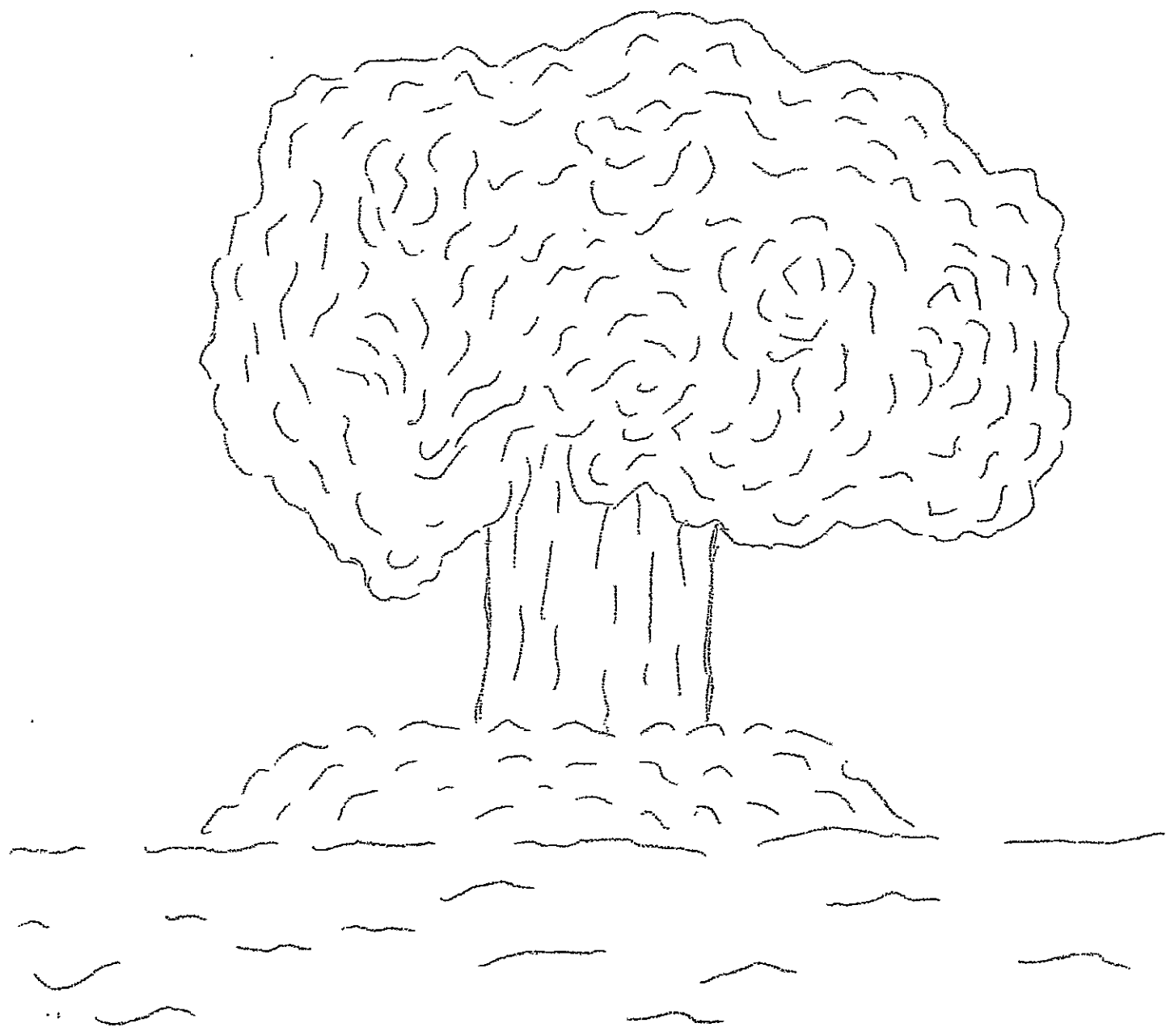
NOTHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO,
NO WEEKENDS, NO BIRTHDAYS,
NO VACATIONS, ONLY MEMORIES.
TRYING TO STAY ALIVE,
TRYING TO FORGET ABOUT FEAR,
ABOUT DEATH,
ABOUT THE PAST.

NO MORE PARKS, NO MORE PICNICS,
NO MORE LAKES, NO MORE SWIMMING,
NO MORE FORESTS, NO MORE HIKING,
NO MORE MOUNTAINS, NO MORE CLIMBING.

THE INHABITANTS WERE NOT LIVING,
THEY WERE ONLY SURVIVING.
THERE WAS NO LONGER LIFE,
THERE WAS ONLY EXISTENCE.

FRIENDS GONE,
FRIENDSHIP GONE,
LOVE GONE.

JEFF SHERBONDY



VALENTINE'S DAY

WHEN VALENTINE'S DAY COMES THIS YEAR,
 I FEAR SHE'LL THINK SHE IS MY DEAR.
 BUT SHE IS NOT, I THOUGHT SHE KNEW,
 THERE IS ONE OTHER, MAYBE TWO.
 IT ALL STARTED FAR AWAY,
 RETURNING HOME FROM WORK ONE DAY.
 SHE WAS OUT OF GAS, IT WASN'T LATE,
 SO I TOOK HER ON A DATE.
 AT FIRST SHE SAID HER NAME WAS SUE,
 THEN SHE SAID MARY AND I SAID, "WHO?"
 MARY SUE IS WHAT SHE SAID,
 AND WANTED TO GO BACK HOME TO BED.
 I THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT THAT TIME,
 IT WAS ALMOST HALF-PAST NINE!
 ONE TIME, SHE WANTED TO GO TO THE ZOO,
 TO WATCH THE FISH AND HEAR THE COWS MOO!
 SIX MONTHS, I THINK, WE WENT TOGETHER,
 THEN I BEGAN TO DISLIKE HER.
 SHE SAID THAT I WAS HER TRUE HEART,
 BUT ALWAYS GAVE ME THINGS FROM K-MART.
 I TOLD HER THAT I WANTED TO PART,
 TO END EVERYTHING AND GET A NEW START.
 SHE SAID, "WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
 I THOUGHT OUR LOVE WAS ALWAYS TRUE?"
 THEN I WENT AWAY TO SCHOOL,
 ONE THAT HAD A REAL BIG POOL.
 THIS IS WHERE I FINALLY MET KATE,
 A CUTE GAL FROM OUT-OF-STATE.
 SHE WAS GOING TO MY SCHOOL, TOO,
 I TOLD HER THAT I DISLIKED SUE.
 KATE AND I LIKED TO DINE,
 THE MEALS WERE GOOD, AS WAS THE WINE.
 WE USUALLY WENT TO A MOVIE, THEN ATE,
 AND SHE COULD STAY OUT REALLY LATE!
 ONE NIGHT, I HAD TO WORK TILL EIGHT,
 SHE SAID, "THAT'S OKAY, I CAN WAIT."
 CHRISTMAS, SHE GAVE ME SOMETHING REAL FINE,
 AND I GAVE HER A STONE OF RHINE.
 HER OLD BOYFRIEND'S NAME WAS BART,
 BUT THE ONLY THING HE LIKED WAS ART.
 SHE SAID THAT, I, SHE'LL NEVER HATE,
 AND SOMEDAY SHE WILL BE MY MATE.
 THINGS ARE DIFFERENT THIS VALENTINE,
 I WILL BE KATE'S AND KATE WILL BE MINE.

ALPHEBET POEM

AN ANT AND AN ABANDONNED,
BUT BEAUTIFUL BLUE BEGONIA
CAN CONTINUE CUTTING
DOWN DANGEROUS DEVASTATING
EXPERIMENTAL ELECTRICAL EXAMPLES.

FIVE FINE FEATHERED FAMILIES FOUND
GREAT GRASSY GREY GROUND
HIDDEN HASTEFULLY HIGH
IN INDIAN'S INDIGO ISLANDS.

JUMPING JALOPY JEEPS,
KILLING KNOWN KLU KLUX KLANNERS,
LURGE LUSTFULLY LENGTHWARD,
MAKING MORE MEAN MARKS.

NEITHER NED NOR NANCY
OR ORAL OR OLIVIA
PEERED PERSUASIVELY PERPLEXED.

QUIETLY, QUAIL QUIVERED,
RAIN RAN RIVERWARD,
SO STARTLED STARLINGS
TANNED THEIR TUMMIES
UNDER UNINTERRUPTED ULTRAVIOLETS.

VIOLENCE VEERED VERY
WAKEFULLY WITHOUT WARNING.

X-RAYS XEROXED XYLOPHONISTS,
YET YOUR YOUNGEST YEARLY
ZIGZAG ZEALOUSLY ZENITHLY.

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URBANDALE HIGH SCHOOL

URBANDALE HIGH SCHOOL IS
REALLY NOT BAD,
IF YOU LIKE TEACHERS THAT
ALWAYS GET MAD.

FOR INSTANCE, WHEN YOU JUST
WALK SOWN THE HALL,
YOU GET SIX WEEKS OF STRUCTURED
FOR NO REASON AT ALL!

BUT SOME OF THE TEACHERS ARE
REALLY QUITE NICE,
EXCEPT WHEN YOU BRING THEM SOME
LITTLE WHITE MICE.

THE BUILDING ITSELF IS IN
PRETTY GOOD SHAPE,
CONSIDERING IT WAS MADE WITH
GLUE AND SCOTCH TAPE!

THE HEATING, MOST OF THE TIME,
DOESN'T HEAT,
AND AIR CONDITIONING IS
OBSOLETE.

SO IT'S COLD IN THE WINTER AND
HOT IN THE SUMMER.
IF IT ISN'T ALREADY, IT MAKES
SCHOOL A BUMMER!

AS IF THAT ISN'T ENOUGH TO
MAKE THINGS HARD,
THE FOOD THAT THEY COOK IS MOST
ALWAYS CHARRED.

THEIR BEEFBURGERS ARE ABOUT AS
TASTY AS LOGS,
AND ALMOST EVERY DAY THEY
HAVE HOT DOGS.

URBANDALE HIGH IS SUCH A
SMALL SCHOOL,
THAT THERE IS NOT EVEN A
SMIMMING POOL.

AND THE LIBRARY - IF YOU
CALL IT THAT,
IS NOT WORTH MORE THAN
TWO CENTS IN A HAT.

IF THERE IS TO BE PRESENTED
A PLAY,
THERE IS NO AUDITORIUM,
THEY SAY.

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I FIND GOOD
TO THIS DAY,
AND THAT'S THAT WE GET OUT AT THE
END OF MAY!

I COULDN'T CHANGE

I WAS ALWAYS THERE,
NOT IN FRONT, BUT IN BACK,
I WAS ALWAYS THERE,
NOT RECOGNIZED, BUT OVERLOOKED,
I WAS ALWAYS THERE,
NOT ON TOP, BUT UNDERNEATH,
I WAS ALWAYS THERE,
BUT WAS NOT ALWAYS SEEN.

THEN THINGS CHANGED,
I HAD A CHANCE TO START OVER,
I TRIED TO CHANGE AND
I SUCCEEDED, IN A WAY.
I FOUND OTHERS LIKE ME.

OTHERS WHO WERE,
NOT IN FRONT, BUT NOT IN BACK,
OTHERS WHO WERE,
NOT RECOGNIZED, BUT NOT OVERLOOKED,
OTHERS WHO WERE,
NOT ON TOP, BUT NOT UNDERNEATH,
OTHERS WHO WERE, LIKE ME.

WHEN I SAW OTHERS WHO
WERE LIKE I ONCE WAS,
I FELT SORRY FOR THEM,
THEY HAD NO OTHERS LIKE I DID,
BUT ONLY THEY COULD CHANGE THAT.

THEN THINGS CHANGED AGAIN,
I HAD ANOTHER CHANCE TO START OVER,
A CHANCE TO BE IN FRONT,
A CHANCE TO BE RECOGNIZED,
A CHANCE TO BE ON TOP.

I TRIED TO CHANGE,
I WANTED TO CHANGE,
BUT I COULDN'T.