

Methodology:

Or: That humanity invented a method of utilising the musical qualities of colliding words within a language to transmit vivid images directly into the minds of other people, evoking emotion& understanding to beings across gulfs of space& time.& called it 'Poetry' instead of 'Magic' is in my humble opinion the pinnacle of brand mismanagement.

PRECEPTS

First: There is always a breaking, a violence. This is the truth. All creation is in of itself an act of interruption. For the new to come into being the old must be broken. This. Will. Hurt.

Second: The raw material of your new God, the complex ideation you will have spent (or will spend/ or have spent) up to six years worshipping into existence lies scattered in the stardust & detritus of your present. It always has, always will. We build our Gods here don't you know.

Third: All theories are sand. It's just that some of that sand is sandstone,& then some of that sandstone is comprised within the blocks of fortress walls. All it would take is one bunny fossil carbon dated to the Precambrian to make evolution a Joke, or Time physics a joke. You choose. Given enough time & pressure even fortresses blow away like sandcastles.

Fourth: Even the mightiest amongst us are mortal. Bertrand Russell put a red sock in the whitewash. Probably. Langston Hughes definitely made typos. Caravaggio literally killed a dude. We still think his paintings are great. Though he killed a dude, to death. Killing a dude in no way helped his art. Yet he's in galleries, so here we are. You can have a bad week & still make your mark.

Try not to kill anybody.

Fifth: academia is attrition. A coordinated pushing of the boundary line between what we understand & what we don't. A heroic rushing of the lines may get you valorised, a solo push to hold new territory in your name is admirable. But most likely it will end in pain. Trust your team, your peers, build a unit, form a squad. Name one poet that has redefined the form & I will direct you to the drinking buddies, lovers, readers & rivals that forged their work. Name one great first author who pushed the bounds of what is known, & I will direct your eyes to the train of names that facilitated the feat.

RECEPIE

Uphold a life, preferably examined.
Prune away some hurt, sparingly.
Place the withered cuttings to one side.
Prepare your verbs, decide where doing
Seeing, being, meeting, fucking, etcetera
Will apply & apply liberally.
Several heaped teaspoons at least

Leaving any spare mix to one side for
reminiscence. Then consult your reading.
Draw flavours from each theorist
Balance acid of dissenting opinion
With the rich fat of fundamentals
& the sweetness of critical consensus.
Season to your individual taste
& Write. Write all you have learned

Write. All you can do now
is get it all down, from the marrow
to the mane. To write is to grow
& carve. Bite deep into the tight grain
of a trunk you've raised from a sapling.
so, revere,& respect that taut
bough offering & Cut, read the bright veins
Resplendent in each fractured chip
But strike the chisel. Nonetheless

This dish so long in the making
is as much in the marinade
as the serving. You cannot
Make edible the inedible. true
But endeavour to make
The stone 'stony'.& people
Will pile their plate with pebbles.

CONSIDERATIONS

The man/ & surely it was a man/ for few women could be
so eloquently wrong/ who said 'the focus is the Journey, not
the destination' evidently/ knew where he was going when
he set out /

you do not

you travel where the dragons are/ the academic knows/
the often-invoked journey of a thousand miles/ begins not
with-a-single-step but with an inquiring mind

willing to walk off the map

for as many miles as it takes to track a path/ & calculate the
distance/ You are the makers of destination/drafters of
desire lines/The few willing/ so/ write/ not only to delight
the mind & make a mark but

to place the path that greats will travel after you/

write each step/ change what is known/expand the gamut
of beauty/ look your chosen mystery dead in its eye &
whisper 'I see you/ I know you/ this is how you work/

& write.