

ON THE CUSP OF DREAMING AND OTHER POEMS

By Adrian Rogers

Dreamed interacting
futures past
voyaging among the stars
encountering at Libra
the balance point's downward
and upward spiralled
images flicking
superimposing
held at the last
falling to a devourer
Sebek the Crocodile's
joints snapped inward
absorbing the trials
and *Grapes of Wrath*
when destroyer and destroyed
appoint for themselves
on the upward way
one holding the vials

plagues and bounty alike
on the cusp of being
seeing and unseeing
like the Barque of Ra.

THE UNIVERSAL SPIRAL

White stone walls
entrance and passageway
do not a prison make
light reflecting
from Mercury's caduceus
DNA
the universal spiral
at its heart.

ON THE CUSP—AT THE SOLAR MERIDIAN

A blazing
meridian white explosion
obliterating blue
from centre to horizon
fires from the zenith
life erasing close quartered,
weaponry of mass destruction
beneath solar chariot axles.

Life creating
and sustaining by distance
the Sphinx's riddle
is stone speak, touch,
pain and illumination.

Creatures curse this power,
civilization
is a weapon of mass distraction.

Chariot halting,
war not over
is judgment distributed equally
wheels within wheels
moving
at the Warden's command

a meridian passes...

INEXORABLE EVENING

Sky red sunsets
shadow-stain the desert black
sand, stone merging
purging day's illusions

tyrannical heat
a lonely long distance runner
life immobilizes...

a savage contradiction
endurance testing
until the day, running silently
passes over into passing by
and instantly

earth-charged exhalation
the sun's rule suspended
is evening's
insubstantial harmonizing.

A desert fox emerges
from rock-cooled den
catalysing
a hermit's vigil
until the stars
live-white-gold intangible
fraternising with eternity
people a darkly
chilled out silence.

A RIP TIDE OF CONTRADICTIONS

From a rip tide of images
the future is an idea
whose time has come,
the past a future
dreamed in retrograde

fortune's shade
crossing the sea's track
under wind and sky
is a hard won concession

life's procession

as sunset bleeds
across a wounded horizon
inducing contemplation
of a seashell sinking
into the sand
unremembered

is love dismembered
by memory, and history
written by the winners
an illusion

beyond confusion
transiting
between birth and dying
life is love remembered.

FROM THE DESERT—THE VISIBLE ECHO

A glare, stone hard white
silently, visibly, echoingly
hurled up from overheated earth
beyond life's midday withdrawal
beneath surface dormancy

manifesting harsh light
exemplifying cathartic rejections
by enduring, seasonal hermits
dwelling in a rock wall

denied the clemency

of radiation's bright
unmerciful lethality,
dust motes dancing in a cave
where lust is dehydrated
in purifying fires unremittingly

and no bells echo. Night
far off self images
only within annealed minds
out-strung as prayers
on rosaries, unwittingly.

A wind's ransacking might
attenuates the moment
until solar declination
from meridian dominance
acknowledges time, inevitably.

JETTY OF BROKEN DREAMS

Skeletally stark
against bloodshot light
jetty of broken dreams
so uniformly black
and statuesquely still
above a swiftly quiet
sneaking tide

oozing across a beach
shelving imperceptibly
towards the sea's
ebb-flow inevitability;

ships no longer call
their ghosts time frozen
like film clips stopped
and insidious tidal flows
progress war's nemesis
or winter storms
in striking savagery

yet ghosts loom
unobtrusively
yards and masts imprinting
on dawn or sunset light
intangible reminders
of what was
and will not be again.

Bio

Adrian Rogers was brought up in England, but trained as a music teacher and began his career as such in Ireland. He, along with the family, migrated to Australia in 1985, and he began writing in 1989 during a period of ill health. Since retiring from teaching he has devoted himself to writing, with poetry, short stories, and articles in numerous Australian literary journals and anthologies, including contributions to the Indo-Australian Anthology 'Vibrant Voices' published by Authorspress. He has two collections of his poetry in print, along with five fantasy novels, published by Double-Dragon in Canada, and two novels published by Mountain Mist in Australia.