

# POISON VOICED

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the crippled ant behind  
the magnifying glass  
looks up at the little boy  
"you're observing  
SURE you're just observing"

I'm a dog going back to its vomit  
my vomit tastes better to me  
than the best your chefs can do

what people get all poison-voiced  
about  
I call truth

I am a jellyfish  
I'm translucent and thin-skinned  
go near me at your own risk

I live hand to lying brain

No I'm not sorry  
But I'll fish you for forgiveness

how do I express gratitude?  
by asking for more of whatever I was  
thankful for

I'm crying out to myself  
because I need me even more than I  
think I do

I was groomed for success  
none of it mattered because I'm bald  
now

the older you get  
the harder it gets to believe others'  
lies  
and the easier it gets  
to believe your own

pride is the smell of your own farts

the core of me is illogic  
that's why I'm constantly testing  
things with my senses  
a kind of echolocation

I am the broken door  
you slam to close  
to break it even more

watering a fire  
doesn't help it grow

my self-esteem  
is pegged to others'-esteem  
of me

the half-self is the part of the self left  
when sanity is taken away  
very few see it

the heart thinks only of itself  
and drags the whole person along with

where does my help come from?  
if I knew I'd be there right now!

some think I'm good, some think I'm  
evil  
but I'm trying to figure out  
which one I look better as

I know everybody just well enough  
To know if I could get to know them

I believe in everything when I'm happy  
I believe in nothing when I'm sad

after supper  
you usually get dessert  
after suffering  
you usually get deserted

guilt is the bark  
shame is the bark and the bite

your pride is mouthwash  
don't swallow it

shame is radioactive waste with an  
infinite half-life

pride is a shield that protects dignity

The shame pit is different  
The more shame you cram in it  
The deeper it will get

for me forgiveness and capitulation are  
mutually exclusive  
doing both simultaneously is like  
flooring the gas and the brake  
simultaneously

guilt is mass  
shame is gravity

forgiveness its own currency  
wrong me and I'll pay you 1,000  
forgivies

guilt and shame are tow trucks  
one tows the other

no hope is better than false hope  
just as a dead cell is better than a  
cancer cell

a slip of the pen, a mistake  
shame leaves a permanent mark  
its carbon copy, guilt  
can be erased with enough penance

hope is lost  
because it's impossible to store

when you are inside of society  
shame prods with surgical precision  
but when you are outside of society  
shame pounds with the force of a blunt  
instrument

hope is like a rope  
it has to be anchored to something  
real in order to pull you up

guilt gets darker quicker  
but shame casts the longest shadow

hope is a muscle  
you can tell it has atrophied  
when the placebo effect no longer  
works on you

whoever turns others' faces red  
turns their pockets green

if you say "I'm looking for the truth"  
you might find something good  
but if you say "I'm looking for  
something to keep me from going off  
the deep end and I don't care if it's a  
lie"  
you will find nothing

as a magnet detects another magnet  
your pride detects someone else's

you can never beat pride out of  
someone  
you can only beat it into different  
shapes

The placebo effect is earned through a  
deep, persistent ignorance of the real  
thing's fakeness

the placebo effect is like a joke  
explaining it one too many times kills  
the whole thing

belief and experience are tow trucks  
hitched together  
experience tows belief  
belief tows experience

belief is behind a door  
that gets harder to open  
the worse you need to get in

there are kinds of gloves for handling  
things willing to be put to the test  
there are kinds of gloves for handling  
things unwilling to be put to the test  
don't handle the wrong kinds of things  
with the wrong kind of gloves

doubt is like a worm  
chop it up and you get more

paper: faith  
rock: experience of God  
scissors: the scientific method

faith in an evangelical context:  
expectation tempered with an  
undefined amount of unbelief

faith: wearing snowshoes skimming  
across the snow's surface  
incredulity: wearing boots and sinking  
through the snow

faith is a mixture, not a solution  
you have to keep stirring it  
or the particles precipitate out

experiencing Christians  
a higher ceiling  
and a lower floor

those who have God  
lord it over those who don't

I know there are only two ways to get  
into heaven  
Being totally righteous or totally right

if I pray a prayer for prayer  
it shows a lack of faith on my part  
nullifying that prayer  
and God knows how many others

there's an escape velocity for prayer  
when your heart's not right they fall to  
the ground

life is hell without Jesus  
just hope it doesn't get too late  
before he sees us

prayer is a lotto ticket  
action is a dime

the power of prayer is Lance  
Armstrong's bike  
the pray-er is more important than the  
prayer

while memes can be copied an infinite  
amount of times  
the ability to believe them is a scarce  
resource

religion is as religion does

Christianity is a coefficient  
it multiplies good people's goodness  
and multiplies wicked people's  
wickedness

we both believe religion is light  
we differ as to who is generating this  
light

I've heard of the father of lies  
but who is the go-between that gets  
you to believe in all those lies

most lies are orthogonal to the truth

some things lie on neither side of truth  
they remain ungerminated

give your knees rugburn  
praying that God won't make you or a  
loved one mentally or physically  
disabled  
because the disabled are discriminated  
against  
by those of all creeds and ethnicities

disability + ableism = blotted out of  
the book of living

as a disabled person you are physically  
human but socially subhuman

is ableism more like multiplication by  
zero or division by zero?

ableism kills instantly  
prospects of that job, that date,  
acceptance in a church

I believe there is a glass ceiling for  
those with disabilities  
its shards fall on them

sanity is a chain  
one weak link  
and the whole thing breaks

permanent  
is a lot of temporaries in a row

you have a fixed amount of tears  
don't use them all up too soon

i know everything will work out for the  
good in the end  
but my enemies are the ones who get  
to define good

suffering is measured with an  
odometer  
the short distance is comedic  
the longer distance is tragic  
and the longest distance the odometer  
turns over to comedic

the least used part of compassion is  
come in  
the most used part of compassion is  
pass

life wouldn't take me  
so i took it

breaking language by using words  
outside of the bounds of their meaning  
is like raising the ph in a swimming  
pool, by pissing in it

people are like motor boats  
you'll get chopped up  
if you stick your hands into what's  
keeping them going

I don't need you to tell me more lies  
I need you to give me the capacity  
to believe the lies you've already told  
me

yes I did break that promise  
I offer you two half-promises

where your treasure is  
that is where your heart is  
but where your trash is  
that is where your soul is

i was thinking about what i could give  
you  
for being such a beautiful girl  
and then i realized that i gave the  
most by keeping away

a letter isn't a simple thing  
there's the words  
there's the context  
there's its trapdoor nature (what you  
say can never be unsaid)  
and there's the addiction that can only  
be fed by receiving a timely response

bad memories are like dirty bathwater  
the memory may go away  
but the scummy emotion stays on the  
sides

most Americans belong to a cargo cult  
we're just less overt about it than our  
pacific islander counterparts

in productivity  
some people are helicopters  
and others are planes  
some people can ramp up productivity  
to full blast without needing a stretch  
of time  
while others need a stretch of time to  
get there

you learn more  
in 2 minutes of hate  
than you do in an eternity of love

there are only 2 girls in the world  
you and not you

romance is nice  
but love is just the coefficient of how  
much you'll suffer for someone