

# 6 poems

*by yuan changming*

**WHY WE LIKE IT:** Poetry Editor Hezekiah writes... 'Okay, Charles, are these any better? I know you guys don't have time to babysit me but I'm fucken new at this, remember? So here goes. I truly enjoyed these as profound but how long should I be going on? Got to go to my other job now...

**Broadway.com**...has an element of the gestalt. We are either invited only so far or assumed to know more. It evokes a charming, foreboding subtext. The tribulations of the pursuit of fame—yin and yang—reduced to the binary has a resonant, contrasting randomness. **Speciatiing**...is a delightful diatribe on the human condition and the world at large that offers a refreshing respite for the glass-half-full reader. **Creative Matrix**...This is my personal favourite (Cdn. sp)...the three states of matter served up with both entropy and empathy, both sublimating and uplifting. Imagine having written this. I might keep a copy in my wallet—I will appear to be clever and it will seem thicker. **Hocus Pocus**...and the hits just keep coming. This submission should be bound as an anthology. Read it yourself. What wouldn't you give to spend a day inside this poet's mind? So Twitter everybody about him. **House Advisory**...Head chakra chills. You're wasting your time reading my WWLI. Read the poems. **I Give Up A Strong Desire**...Okay, just read them! Or even better, read them to someone you love. And if they don't cherish it as a great gift, leave them. H. S.

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If ever at all, if only once

If you were

To have such a chance

Just keep driving

Drive forward

With no need to take a shoulder check

Despite so many beside you

Despite so much ahead & behind –

Along this new street, your car

(Like your body or thought)

Will adapt its shape like a stream

Of water running its own course

From past to future, amidst

Programmed sapiens, through

The flow of data

Until at the meeting point

Between yin & yang

Between 0 & 1

Between time & space

## **Speciating**

O yeah! There are still sapiens on Earth. Often do we remember & feel more than proud that only we Superbeings exist, we the most sophisticated & most exquisite human-robot compounds. It is true that from time to time we cannot help recalling one or two of them, like Shakespeare & Einstein, but that's when they pop up unexpectedly from the back of a chip as a couple of forgotten algorithms. Their story tells them they are much more developed physically & intellectually than chimpanzees, while in the heart of history the latter is at least spiritually far more respectable. Since sapiens have proven good for nobody, nothing but a sub species of waste wasting endless earthly resources, how can we rid Our



Courage & posterity

This [fluid] cures

All diseases

This [sequence of syllables] drives away

All evils & devils

This [ritual] ensures

Good weather & good harvest

This [hat/hood] guarantees

Purity, loyalty

This [flag] leads right

To paradise

This [man] is

A living god

This [statue, foiled or not] is

Omnipotent

This [chip] will transform us

Into superors

*So long as man is in his story*

*All is well that believes well*

### **House Advisory**

Roof: Always stand high & look afar beyond!

Attic: Fix the leak first!

Ceiling: Never hit the ceiling with megalomaniac!

Wall: Turn around before getting a nasty bump on your head!

Balcony: Stand aside to take a bird's view of the situation!

Window: let some light enter your life!

Floor: Set your feet firmly in reality!

Stairs: [Watch your step! Or] Take one step at a time!

*A few more from fixtures:*

Air conditioner: Keep cool & calm!

Bed: Dare to dream!

Clock: Treasure every minute!

Calendar: Go along with the times!

Mirror: It's necessary to examine your life from time to time!

Table lamp: Live to illuminate others!

Toilet: [Most important,] just let it go !!

### **I Give up a Strong Desire**

Long long have I longed

To write (all my very superlatives

Into) a book, a masterpiece, hopefully

With every vivid descriptive detail, &

Sophisticated suspension, all designed

To work perfectly for a super sur-plot

In a unique inner-outer setting, both

As factual as fictional, as

Full of in-

Sights into the human nature as into

My own protobeing

But alas, after nearly one thousand attempts

I finally decide to stop, mainly because of

My fear about failure to find a close reader

Other than myself

Because I know my writing never appeals

To any editor even in my mother tongue

Because

Indeed, to live my story is, after all

More urgent than to story my life

**AUTHOR'S NOTE:** *After reading **Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow**, a book by Israeli author Yuval Noah Harari, I often think about the way we humans have kept inventing stories to believe in, but our civilization seems to have taken a wrong direction: while our capacity to conquer the objective world has developed dramatically in terms of science and technology, our mind/heart/spirit or subjective world remains hardly improved as we continue destroying our environment as well as our fellow beings, intentionally or otherwise. Most of the poems in this batch result from my musings along these lines and my main intention is to call attention to the need for us to be more self-reflective as a species.*

**BIO:** Yuan Changming published monographs in translation before leaving his native country. Currently, Yuan edits Poetry Pacific with Alan Qing Yuan in Vancouver. Credits include ten Pushcart nominations and publications in Best of the Best Canadian Poetry (2008-2017) and BestNewPoemsOnline, among others.