

It's Been A Long Time Since We've Been In Sight Of Each Other

By Mir Yashar Seyedbagheri

WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry Editor Hezekiah writes... Yash Seyedbagheri is a blast, he's been here before, in the past. Read 'Dear YouTube.' It is short and sweet...maybe we can up his likes... "I got 68 likes / why not 69?"... "and let it be a sexy 69" What in the cyber-world is he talking about?(Spacing and font size are poet's own.) HS*

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Long time no see, says the vanilla man, woke

from a long winter's nap in Starbucks,

oh wait, that's too problematic, a representation of anti-Asian racial inequities, hierarchies, patriarchy

a stereotype of Asian inflected English, he proclaims, while he likes a toppled tower on Twitter

how fun you guys

he proclaims before exclaiming his own excommunication

contrite that he couldn't remember

the precise pronouns, the hims and hers, theys and thems

meanwhile he consumes another venti

and likes another toppled tower

THE POET SPEAKS: *The poem was inspired by the present climate and the debates around racism and political correctness. In particular, I've been thinking about the lines between thoughtful conversation and unwitting absurdity and thus the poem was born. George Carlin's philosophy that "it's the duty of the comedian to find out where the line is drawn and cross it deliberately," weighed heavily on my mind in writing the piece. Just insert poet instead of comedian. My own poetry generally falls into two camps: nature or sorrow- inspired Romanticism or societal absurdity.*

Poetry can be a place to cross lines and start conversations about the uncomfortable things in our world. It can also remind us to find the humor in the darkest of times.

AUTHOR'S BIO: Yash Seyedbagheri is a graduate of Colorado State University's MFA program in fiction. His story, "Soon," was nominated for a Pushcart. Yash has also had work nominated for Best of the Net and The Best Small Fictions. A native of Idaho, Yash's work is forthcoming or has been published in WestWard Quarterly, Café Lit, and Ariel Chart, among others. His micro fiction **The Wall** was published in Issue 2.