

# Spring 2024

# Scott Taylor

# dichotomy

there are two types of men those who see a universe in every human being and those that see nothing outside of their own universe the first type recognizes the repercussions of cutting down a spider in his web or snuffing out the existence of some mother's son while the second type would be perfectly at peace fleeing an exploding planet in a one man escape pod as long as there were plenty of whores and bottles of champagne waiting at the rendezvous point given these simple observations one understands the forces that catapult robber barons into their castles and put glamour queens in their hives and one is amazed that the first group has managed to avoid total extinction miraculously, the world still continues to turn and the endangered species has survived the onslaught for this long by hiding out in tree houses and country bunkers the siege is on, however so stock up on your canned beans and bottled water

### everybody

everybody look scared out of their minds everybody been bad mistreated everybody jump and fidget, watch they backs, shiver and quake everybody glare at you with guarded eye and fearful retina and with the exception of certain blonde actresses and trust fund children everybody gone completely off the fuckin deep end all the drones walk by stooped and cowed-like get caught on the ferris wheel, go round for the spin cycle bang they head metallic clank on the stanchion as it go by everybody got rare and ancient bad wiring, fuse boxes sparking copper conduits volting and arcing and surging out of control-like and rebellious even everybody a quiz show, everybody a hanoi hilton there are no heroes, there are no role models, there are no presidents there be no life beyond life, or during it thanatopthis, muthafucka the only cosmic struggle reside right here in my aching battleground head there has never been a victory, no suh, not even a one everybody give a fuck about cat food or breath mints or margarine everybody jes wanna get they pickle shined my brain leak down my trousers my soul eek out my brain everybody need no advice, everybody got destiny abundant out the rectum created from dust, return to dust the black man's eyes give away his tricky green cheerful suit the little girl in big girl skin can't fake it the invalids and short-changed rest underground the unbalanced bite the scale as it bash they jaw on the downswing i bend my head back to dam the neuron flood we bend over to damn ourselves and wait on the tragedy of a few more minutes

#### soup wars

if you try to make soup shortly after losing your mind it will leap out of the can upon its opening. it will then spill all over the top of the stove. the pot (which contains the remains) will then turn over and empty itself strategically into the stove burner. you will wail. then, you will not make sense by turning the stove burner on, remember that there still is steak and corn below the coils, turn it off, and grasp the metal coilings to lift it up. you will hear sizzling as your fingertips burn. you will wail, in a more prolonged sort of fashion this time. you will try to rectify matters by bringing out the water, but this will only move the steak and carrots and sauce around on the various surfaces in the kitchen that they currently cling to. you will also get copious amounts of water on the floor, which will create a rather perilous environment within which you will almost slip and break your neck numerous times. you will have tremendous trouble replacing the stove burner components after making a botched, rather lazy attempt at cleaning the inside of the mechanism. this will upset you further, and you will wail yet a third time. you will back up in your small kitchen after confronting the sink and come within inches of burning your naked buttocks on the second stove burner atop which is a pot inside of which the half of the soup that did not go all over the fucking place is currently cooking. you will then have a quiet, disturbed moment of reflection during which you will conclude that you really must get your act together.

#### hard hard evidence

i tried to be good i tried to be right i tried not to feel on this sick autumn night i know things won't change i know what i am i know things will not go according to plan i fall for you hard i fall on my face i spread my dignity all over the place i gorge on your attention i drink all my wine i try to get somewhere and just waste more time my thoughts drive me crazy your memory kills drink holes in my stomach still can't get my fill the new stuff's organic the old was obscene the training was panicked the rest is my dream i stagnate and sputter i fall and i fail your intentions mutter my reactions wail my game is too cryptic the messages pale my head sentimental my dick is for sale the theater is closing the play is on words i curse at the reptiles and envy the birds i send you my passion i mail you my love it quick gets deleted ordained from above

my foolish delusions of deities and queens who've led me to madness who're not what they seem the songs all decay now the colors they flee the ceilings are static the walls fall on me i tug on my chicken i drink down my piss to wake up on monday like nothing's amiss i grow one day older i pay all my bills i cut out my tear ducts and cry somehow still

## my point of view

i hate these who are so comfortable with everything that makes me convulse with their calm, indifferent conversations over who is hurting who at the present moment while taking their slow, jaded walk past my ears i watched them embrace it in elementary school the little soldiers of today's brave new society the adapters and yet i saw her body double walking across the book store parking lot today and almost cried to think that i had the audacity at one time to give that up the two halves of my consciousness are constantly at war and driving in the car today, watching all the passersby i once again had a moment of fleeting lucidity in observing that there is no right and wrong only different angles of viewing the same thing Perception is Reality there must be no other name for it

#### situational dilemma

hard pizza is sitting in the box waiting for me to consume it i prefer to sit naked with my Icehouse and listen to the pain in my neck i am waiting for her to get online because she is the only thing that means anything to me and i am quite sure i will be able to work for the next eighty years if need be if she will only come join herself to me the fuck stuck it in again yesterday for the crime of asking for a ride to school and i am thinking about donating myself to jail to put an end to this at the very least, i should go down there with a samurai sword and work a little castration magic what kind of a mother allows this it's almost unthinkable i want to carve a door into her satresque world but sometimes a person has to believe in the possibility of such a thing before it can become real and she hasn't had a lot of practice dealing with hope