

## fool's gold

*"You shall not crucify Mankind on a cross of gold."*

- William Jennings Bryant

### 1. the rail yard

everybody knows something  
tho most know nothing  
i contradict myself  
or am a fool in search of gold

if it weren't for some fool inventing  
the train  
we'd all be trapped on the block forever  
or would we? / feet / feet / feet /

heya ah heya ah heya ah

love is a drama so fund your dream  
gold / dust / ash / greed

the old fat man chomped on his popcorn  
that crackling sound -  
as we got deeper into the film the film got deeper & deeper  
the old man slept / woke / slept  
picked his nose / slept / the film finally ended  
he is a golden fool who knows where  
the water fountain is

the fountain of youth:  
is it the debt ceiling or the dead sea  
that needs to be razed  
*"all distinctions fall beneath my footsteps."*

heya-ah heya-ah heya-ah gold / dust / ash & greed

### 2. the ship cutters

allah sold us into this destiny  
we work to eat  
evil spirits reside in the hulls of dead ships  
we must exorcise them  
if not like him a spike might go right through  
the brain - the heart  
his foot gone just like that

his footing lost  
now he spends his time in bed  
hard working men do not need “whores”

the rice tastes like waste oil  
his hands must not be clean  
he scrubs & scrubs & scrubs  
heya-ah heya-ah heya-ah  
we walk barefoot in boiling oil  
in mud in hard steel shards  
our bodies glisten beneath our skins  
for all the particles of metal  
we have consumed  
gold comes in all colors  
that my malnourished baby will never see  
first she was born blind  
hairless –  
then she died in her mother’s arms  
i was not ready to have a baby i told her

cutting ships is our destiny  
to destroy is easier than to build  
crows mate for life – here on the coast  
they build their nests out of wire  
in which they lay their pale blue eggs  
these are old ships –  
older than those that destroy them  
yet most are younger than I

that chair you sit in - that clock on the wall  
fool’s gold from the captain’s quarters  
once brightly lit – then gone to seed  
now in your home

poor brown baby born blind  
we are not human yet  
tho sadly all too so

ship cutter – take off your boots & rest.

3. you have my history in your hands

we dream all the time –  
dreamtime  
i have been dreaming/ dreamt midway

while looking for my jeans  
that i already had  
in the bag that i left on the bench  
during the earthquake while  
i went for a swim in the neighbourhood pool  
the quake started in a place  
called Mineral - gas/ air/ drill / rock /  
dust / ash / greed / gold comes in all forms  
fools are just fools  
always in the mirror  
always in my line of sight

i wake myself up  
filled with stolen energies  
i am not ashamed to look anymore  
it's like picking up money on the street  
& not knowing how much  
one feels embarrassed by what others might think  
until one turns the corner.

#### 4. aging

we just get older  
    not wiser  
        fresh fish  
            live lobsters  
                stars & cafes  
kings of head-ons we chase the rain  
    hail & hearty / hail a cab  
    head toward perfumania – toward sub ways  
        fashion - duped & delivered  
            foot action schwarshkas / fool's gold  
                camera  
            your self & action / light turns green  
                & it's always the same time next week.

#### 5. mariposa

there is no need for debt or debate  
when one does not mean anything to anybody  
the important point is not to break the chain  
to be polite – to say yes & thank you  
to be accommodating – to supplement even supplant  
desires – to persist – consomenations /  
irritated whites drinking Negrons

ah butterfly the nemesis is you - short life spans colliding  
perhaps all life changing as you change  
encounter & encompass grief – hear the flutter of 100,000  
the sonic tracks of a silent film  
the debt converted to smoke  
windows clouded over  
city spitting clouds  
that wedge  
between the arches  
of her  
high heeled shoes

i said i'm no longer afraid to look

shuttered windows – der wekstahlvez  
paper blowing across an empty street  
debt or depth or death  
which is it – all fool's gold  
no matter what the substance  
all duped no matter what the price..

werder da cat's on its quiet pursuit  
the unrest of pigeons

as the prison gates open & you are released like a steam engine  
into the street – released from your oustem –  
& we walk like comrades & i pour the morning's waste out of a bucket  
as the crowd increases from single file to tenfold  
rows up & down pathways / cobbles cabals cables  
stairways & staring soldiers marching  
the organ grinder playing  
the draw bridge near collapse  
ah mariposa  
the factory awaits its occupants – what is the debt they owe  
we owe? - heya-ah heya-ah heya-ah

a pipe – a moustache – the gears beginning to spin in a world of mass production  
where things are produced for the masses  
though some are only for the privileged few  
finely shaved & polished shards of steel  
infinite bottles filled & loaves fresh baked  
fires stoked  
chimneys pushcarts / loaded  
cars washed - garbage disposed of  
(yet always more garbage) – days always beginning  
children off to school if the season's right  
weggelerollerda window gates up schlachterha - mer  
curtains up



in a tunnel without end where depth & ceiling are one  
as they press in upon me-  
nemesis – is me oh butterfly – coal dust - the price i put on things  
& i can't begin to tell you where it all began  
but look there & there & there & there  
& you'll begin to see the end.

6. i'm not ashamed to look anymore  
it's like picking up money on the street  
one feels embarrassed by what others might think  
but no shame  
& filled with stolen energies i wake myself up  
debt depth death - fool's gold

7.  
a. in 1896 the world experienced the worse depression  
since the crash of '29  
just when it looked like it was all over  
gold was discovered in South Africa  
this was a gasp inducing spectacle  
the slave trade in America had ended as we knew it  
there were ocean liners called steamers i believe  
& steamer trunks filled with papers books  
& other reading material  
there were ice bergs already in meltdown  
blues men were starting to migrate north  
singing songs of joy joy joy – wonderful songs  
about going home when day was done  
about moving on – about being betrayed  
@ the crossroads  
& still now like then some countries don't have lines to stand in  
or crowns to wear as they approach their maker  
yet the devil was always a man wearing a gold chain  
once disguised as a king -  
now the king's fool who buys promises  
from the global dream- makers  
pregnant with scandal.

b. for R.K.

in fact  
you get what you can  
here & now

& falsely translate this into  
some vague promise of immortality –  
barely making ends meet  
that is...somehow connecting here & now to  
then – then being the  
other end of here/ now / when  
being immortality which itself is connected  
to nothing  
& which is something you can neither truly  
taste – touch or really even look forward to  
but which you can vaguely smell as history itself  
shifts with unforeseen catastrophes  
& manipulation  
where you just may end up in this maze  
of immortality  
like how many times one can use the word SEX  
in a short story  
almost like a disclaimer – the hat too small  
which needs to be returned  
the socks that fit just right – the healing crystals – the book  
about the life of the saints that no one will ever read  
& here you are in a grainy out of sync video  
wearing your immortality around your neck  
like a gold chain  
your lifeline out of focus  
as your soul is bought for chump change  
not even sold to the lowest bidder  
but stored in a vault in a safety deposit box  
that can't even be opened upon the depositor's  
death  
so you're stuck like exaggerated desire & you'll die yourself  
not really ever knowing what will or did happen  
to your words your sad smile your faux independence  
your humility & humiliation  
your dedication & your dumb stumbling pilgrimage.

c.

or that cat again / 17 yrs. old / black fell 20 stories  
yet managed to hold on to its last life  
never once thinking about the future  
or of debt - depth - death  
its breathing tube connecting it  
to the 9 yr. old boy who was hacked to pieces with neither white god black god  
or gold god to save him & with nothing left to be learned.

8. *if we could outlast the potential fate coming down on us  
the blood of the father & the I shalt not be...*

says the honest thief

*if we could with the turn of a twist*

*the spurned manifestation*

*& grand growl of the extinguisher*

*cool the room*

*i'd 'spended the looser – the catch 22*

*of hand curling one's hair &*

*the burn of fool's gold everywhere*

*when the proof of DNA is not enough.*

& the withered penis responds - *even gold is fool's gold*

*even as the shadows spin to cool the room*

*yes blood itself be gold of fools*

*yet neither black gold nor white gold nor red gold*

*can save thee now.*

*but i've been sharing with others for most of my life*

says the good thief *yet even those with less than me*

*have more...am I therefore a fool?*

& the decaying penis answers - *even gold is fool's gold*

*& even fools get fooled...*

& the thief suddenly realizes that he is ultimately

responsible for his own death

& that afterwards all he really wants

is to have some peace

& perhaps a few pieces of gold

or even a handful of silver

might do.

9. what made the short list

take the express to your success

professional speech mangled by hucksters

panning for fur

basically all on the fringes of business

& biographies

& poetries

sex – iron – fat – stone – marrow – teeth – college

glass flowers for eyes – tongues – signals & weight

(herd) fluids – wax – rules – bigotry – clocks – albinos

machines- varnish- fringes – stone – belt buckles

WOOD

fields – pebbles – blockage – reaper

empire – hate-riot act



10.           he drinks his cola  
                  from  
                  a gold plated silver chalice  
with a platinum cross & a diamond wedding ring  
                  attached to it  
                  *whakindadaysitgonnabetoday*  
                  *ya ahmar muni?*  
                  the interrogator asks  
                  *go away or I'll kill myself*  
                  he answers

he's like a man o' war swimming in a symposium of latecomers  
& because nothing is separated it can never be bound or found

*there was a time when tulips made or broke fortunes*  
                  says the interrogator – *finish your drink*  
                  *& i'll leave.*

11. "*forgive me my lust for gold*" – A.W.

a. she said  
i'm giving up on war now  
i'm unplugged  
after this book  
then said  
people kill  
for the dollar bill

b. short list ii (an empire of ghettos)

marble tablets to cure your stomach ache  
each containing a commandment  
ghetto empires – or/e magnets  
cliff dwellers – cave dwellers – grave yards  
sun bleached kernels of corn liquor to cure your heartache  
victim – dictum – radnip – inventory – arsenals – occupation  
strikes – chicken wire – walls of flesh – divided cities - pins  
                  azag-zaga  
pharaohs – artifacts – scrolls – temples – tricks – dry ice – frozen nickels  
                  nothing can save us now

12. after the golden calf

or mother of pearl  
or jade warrior  
or diamond pendant  
or

    this is a young man's game  
    u.s. mail  
waging peace    interpreting power  
                  every step taken a victory  
a naturally sweet haven  
    every billboard/camera for a superstar  
    reminder / money saver  
every highway an outlet for crippled veterans  
    a center for education  
    a passage under continuous construction  
    a large unmaintained body of water  
boats that will carry one to providence  
    after the crash  
        at an even pace / in calm waters / screaming  
a boat angel who is here for you  
    who will volunteer in a non-competitive way  
    to carry united possibly after the screaming has ceased  
    (if that should occur)  
    on choppy waters / made available to all  
    - the coming – what awaits us –  
a gelding with fiery wings bare-backed w/a golden harness  
to china – to what awaits us – a golden gelding - all afire  
    so we must hold on – even while grasping @ straws  
we must be strong despite the unknown fungus growing calmly  
    @ the base of the tree – we must be vigilant  
despite the fact that its roots have torn up the sidewalk  
buckling the concrete / loosening the keystone  
eyes stone /  
despite the exotic animals let loose from their cages  
remember this is not a PEACEFUL KINGDOM

    tones eyes see / we must save our money /  
    play the limitless lottery / support our friendly bankers  
    on the bank of the wet & limitless expanse  
not far from the rest area tiny boats await us  
    we/they can barley contain our feelings  
it's the middle of the street you are surrounded by domesticated dogs  
    meaner / wilder than one could ever imagine

    the risk is great

but the boats await

this is an old man's game  
still wagering while awaiting to set sail  
in the middle of Berlin or new Britain  
on an unclean body of water  
as the sign carriers & fire breathers fold up their tents &  
climb the rocky hill

mercenary pitiful Viking  
you too can win up to \$200,000  
but remember that AFTER THE CRASH  
THERE'S always THE IMPACT

*what did the merry mailman say to capt. kangaroo?  
my pouch is bigger than yours.*

13. pelts

*"to every thing turn turn turn"*

i saw them snatch the nets out of the hands  
of the police  
they liberated the nets i told her  
& anyone else who'd listen

liberate the nets  
put the pelts back on the animals

back streets  
nowhere – everywhere  
occupy nowhere - everywhere  
wear yer coda arms as you occupy fall street on a fatal night  
with a dark'ning chill in the air  
not knowing what it means to be hungry  
yet hungering for a taste within this myasthma  
a healthy miasma / lunchdined  
occupy mall street occupy small streets

liberate the nets  
give the pelts back to the animals  
liberate the nets

in the pitch dark  
of general assembly  
clear windswept echoing words

after a now dimmed light  
words of liberation from power  
money greed others  
the others who have all these other things  
words of solidarity  
occupy call street liberate the pets  
played out clouded ghostly  
a fall into madness -

what others would confirm as madness  
i hereby affirm as SANE

occupy stall street  
effects which lead up to a storm  
storm the unsplendiferous faceoffs  
the ones who have plenties  
back to one most sublime yet ominous calm  
liberate the jets storm the balmy  
occupy ball street  
a wall's a wall-a-street's a street buildings built  
build up the legions / not noise for noise sake

it's not like this hasn't happened before  
but it's not the first time  
it's the first time  
it's not as though things have changed  
but nothing has changed  
though things are changing  
what appears to be a move to a more  
open society - prohibition is coming  
degrees won but not paid for  
debts owed or piling up  
bigger dwellings / loans alone  
the leaves turning - *"there is a season – turn turn turn"*

signs a revolution of signs  
for what it's worth  
or "how did a nation founded on right  
go so wrong" – right left right wrong  
scrawl street / crawl street / hallway

hit & hauled away / occupied & liberated  
the big scribble –  
take power away from the people & give it to the people  
considering the nature of one's injuries  
the art of forum shopping

& maniacal masters of the megalopolis  
swiftly erasing the slogans swiftly painting new ideas  
if you need to invoke swift yet random truths  
it is much brighter here in the new wing  
but it no longer smells of life  
the underclass looks different in a different light  
the middle class a shade duller / blue collars look grimier  
forever health & the transworld buddhist bank  
the global bank & cathay bank / the asia bank &  
funeral home  
dr. toothy's florist bank / the city clerk / donations  
for a bigger tent / we are home / we *are* home  
& those who believe they are free are ENSLAVED  
& those enslaved believe they are free  
occupy freedom / the new world tower / the radio fidget twigster  
emote serenity / occupy wall/mart  
crowd the unseen courtrooms & their relationship to others  
filling up space with their remote control  
speaking in between days  
marooned soldiers on a small island  
in the midst of a rainstorm  
with its concrete bedrolls air-flowers & biographies  
with its once read twice seas of blue tarp & barter  
its eternal temporality & touch & go

photograph your taste buds  
presume that all is lost but not at a loss  
all's not lost you stammer  
recommend recommending / commending &  
mending  
mention me to the sleeveless legions as you leave the party  
to join the MOVEMENT  
check with the maid to see if anything's been left behind  
for instance –  
    a bible – a bobble – a bangle – a bright colored bead  
    a chance encounter – a panel discussion – a crossed signal –  
    or fool's gold perhaps some fool's gold

*"i left my hankie the other night"*

liberate the nets  
give the pelts back to the animals  
occupy ALL STREETS -  
    "*& a time to every purpose under heaven....*"

14. as in the case of esther k. (for j.r.)

finding one's way to Amerika  
& using a \$20 bill as a bookmark  
various treats &  
what it means to be hungry  
i'm hungry  
i'm starving  
i'm famished  
i want to eat something  
i need to eat something  
i could use a bite about now  
notifications both true & false  
red silks & plush velvets  
stock market  
meat market / forfeit &  
kicking the money lenders out of the temple  
how-whatcha limbs on uneven ground  
to intrude @ the interlude  
ram's horn / car horn / fog horn / train whistle  
stuffed moon & copper sky copper wires  
copper coins paper sliver weeping timber golden morning  
convalescing corpse unwearable economic powers  
unbearable yet unbreakable creation  
the electricity of creation  
legerdemain – a lexicon of immunology  
a man's house & the proper use of materiality  
& the denial of flight / redemption / honey  
the reinterpretation of satan  
possibly "HE" who passed over the house  
the worship of drink – possibly "HE" – the angel of death  
who spared the infants – the many messiahs  
the worship of varied deities – like pearls / titanium / mercury  
& what deities @ present reside over the land  
golden fools with golden rules & clipboards  
the JOHN DOE of religion marrying esther k.  
for g-d gets only those women that men do not want  
measurements / the elements table  
breakfast table / dinner table  
wining dining mining & reclining  
50 trapped down below  
foundation of sorrow & the measuring stick  
candelabras & cups runneth over  
gold diggers & a purse full of kisses & gold dust  
& silence being golden accounts for why there is so little silence

to love one only for what they are WORTH  
pounds crowns tarnished torn the patina of dollars  
bronze or oxidized groceries

gold comes in all colors  
hunger comes in all colors  
so pity the man with the money  
the wife who marries a g-d  
the ravishing beauty ravaged by hunger  
the ravaging beauty ravished by hunger  
calamity opportunity sobriety & those who are after the prize...

& those on a crystal pure mission.

#### 15. four flights up

there is a water fountain for pianos  
    four flights up  
    there is the thirst one feels of apparition  
        the apprehension of the thirst one feels  
    when four flights up  
        the fear one has of repetition  
            the damaging joviality of comprehension  
                one feels being four flights up  
                    the falling thirst of the street  
of faint-hearted farmers & fraternities  
    the killing of a metaphor – small compensation for flight

if everything we do is in the past  
then our conversation is a memory about to happen  
& you being late have not yet arrived to partake in it  
but remember it's not like we have unlimited time in the past  
    either  
    there is a water fountain for pianos four flights up  
        so bring your golden chalice  
        & drink.

#### 16. the stars

where are the borders of the stars  
they are certainly not 4 flights up  
    like the borders of square cartons (makes sense)  
        fuse / hotel & the chase always the chase  
        life more careers transit & capital

triple crown towns  
& 20,000 members of the 99% waiting on line  
to get into the new Armageddon Casino  
or to take another bite out of the Apple  
green heroes amalgamated gourmet cancers  
a gallery of pumped juices & more & more & more  
hard sovereign break fasts  
steaks thru the heart of co-heir-ency  
read it bank on it – it's a pharmaceutical farm for fools  
a people united harvesting fool's gold  
sleepy california bagels  
nice yet challenging times  
the kids  
the toilets  
the meatings  
the barbecued & skewered language / good to go  
i'm good i'm good i'm gold  
but honestly  
the stars are nowhere near the water fountain.

17. summer's end

a. at summer's end i pick up 3 smooth stones by the shore  
one black – one white – one grey  
once no doubt used as currency  
natural fabrics – the current is strong today  
i try talking to the gull in its own language  
or an approximation thereof  
i'll trade you these stones  
for this ocean & this beach i say but get no response  
so after a few frustrating moments i mutter  
ok so i'm no st. francis or rockefeller or pilgrim  
but tell me which one of your friends  
stole the blue (potato) chips off my blanket  
while me & the mrs' was takin a dip?

realizing that all this proved fruitless i asked a passerby if they would  
snap a few pictures of us standing beside the body of the  
newly drowned man.

b. later that night there was a big fire around the corner from where i live  
she ran back in to get her hysterical cat – she being quite hysterical herself  
here do you want to facebook your friend he asked her  
to tell her her apartment was destroyed?  
the man had pink water moccasins on before he drowned  
one lay beside him & the other was nowhere to be found



she wanted to get back in to save her software  
her hardware  
& her jewels – do you want to let your friend know that all is gone  
though all is not lost  
except of course for the drown man –  
after much heavy black smoke the roof finally burst into flames  
& shortly after caved in –  
the other pink shoe was eventually located by the shoreline  
both building & shoe were by this time  
totally waterlogged –  
i flew toward the horizon & the gull remained in possession of its senses.

that afternoon  
the sun though somewhat clouded over remained golden  
that evening the moon though somewhat clouded over  
remained golden  
& the 3 smooth stones remain resting until this day upon my window ledge.

18. a lengthy trip ( golder's green )

the trip might be lengthy due to evacuation  
the trip might be lengthy due to exploitation  
terrorism / default / lack of insurance / assurance / policy changes /  
dramatic overhauls in the system / “rich republicans”  
loss of property / income / breath / life / death / debt / depth  
gold is green  
we are building new facilities to provide jobs  
destroying more communities  
to provide jobs / invading more countries / to provide jobs  
fool's gold for fools / panning for gold / sonic panning  
little planning for gold gold is green  
fool's gold – “great highways warlike victories”  
the real disaster is to not be prepared – one must budget oneself  
simply DO NOT BUDGE or demand a flat rate for your time on earth  
or SPEND SPEND SPEND or promise to meet all your deadlines & demands  
debt depth death - find yourself a sponsor until your time has come  
enjoy the wonders of this world - city /country & when your time does come  
no need to transfer payments deeds goods –  
what's done is done when total fitness is gone / when your life is no longer @ stake  
& the assassins have left all bare & there's nothing left in the cards  
oh maybe one last shuffle as you shuffle down the plank  
& to live on is off like a light switch in a world of labor no longer populated by pioneers  
the trip might be lengthy due to interruptions –  
all manner of interruptions during one's entire existence  
& meeting one's maker may be suspended indefinitely

after spending a lifetime in search of THAT BEAST  
gold dust ash greed health oil checking accounts  
CHECK CHECK CHECK CHECK CHECK CHECKKKKKKKK  
heya ah ahhhhhh ahhhhh hey yaha ahh ahh heyaha  
signs lens alternative heat fidelity fair trade free trade prestige  
opposition to Bob's account of the story  
strong thumps / flags of nations / account a count & count  
to take all this into account – a count a count & count – gold as greens  
& the body an organ in a cycle pooped eyes & jagged lives  
& honor always & jaguars near extinction though who could afford a jaguar these days  
any how?  
expensive to feed / hard to maintain / harder to find  
if we could only out last the potential fate coming down on us  
yet we dare to dare / to check – check – check  
“spacious clouds landscapes currents”  
fuses & magic - but it's time to leave the magic to the other guy – i'm over it  
& we all as sensitive as a time bomb  
& i'm over here & over it  
all this hocus pocus - so leave me alone – these liquid tears & fathomless airs  
the molten tears of ship cutters cutting thru the steel  
& let the hurricane form where it may fall where it may land where it might  
just leave me alone alone all alone  
away from your god & happiness & all the petty dramas but my own  
find yourself / seat yourself / shelve your ideas & ideals  
to be duped is quite natural  
a survival technique / to want to be part of the 1% is quite natural  
along with the need to need more to want more  
more clothing / more counterfeits / more food / more toys / more accessories /  
more gadgets / more capital / more space / more land / more burdens /  
more institutions / more MORE  
the need to want more has become a real NEED  
has become a BRAND NAME - a label in a garment NEED  
Made by NEED with NEED in NEED for NEED  
where I WANT NO LONER EXISTS & is REPLACED ONLY BY I NEED  
I NEED a NEW THIS I NEED A NEW THAT  
but you already have ONE – the one I HAVE IS from LAST WEEK  
i'm getting sleepy just thinking about it - / storm watch / lyrical self denial /  
my needs consume me like constant inventions  
my needs > a warehouse full of NEEDS  
like progress & plastics & handcuffs  
like plastic surgery these needs they change our looks / our outlook  
the very fabric of our being  
dust – ash - greed – debt – depth – death – gold  
green gold is GREEN

CHECK CHECK CHECK CHECK CHECK CHECK

19. darwinism

we are produced within a labyrinth  
of produce  
& the uniforms are a light  
of chanting bell & percussion  
more stars above their shining hearts  
than heaven / to shield us  
perhaps

the origin of a species

belated greetings & only these photos left  
to show us a life / a (s)car  
a universe of flowers  
white wreaths that are a world  
a reason why.....

the origin of a species

flower & its short life / & rebirth  
chanting  
your fellow officers / your brothers sisters  
SISTER / father / lover /  
mother who entrusts her memory to me  
all here to grieve this crime

& the cup's raised  
& a prayer spoken/sung among  
the smell of incense  
& holy water strewn about like a stream  
a dream about  
the origin & demise of a species  
as quick as a gunshot  
a burial  
a sunrise / sunset / storm on a  
perfect day

& we all rise above the ape for a moment

long live the circular world  
long prosper the forest through the trees  
fall back to earth  
& ash & gold & dust  
& a time of prosperity  
when there was no greed.

20. gabriel (goodbye souls)

blown / the golden trumpet  
blown / the golden horn  
blown / the light made visible  
blown

she is neither optimist / nor pessimist / but mist  
blown /

the prospectors & gold diggers  
blown /

the company men blown  
the lonely life maker / blown / blown / blown

but there is always a story to be told

&

& always a bridge to be sold