

Poetry Series

Kelly Kurt
- poems -

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Kelly Kurt(1/14/1958)

Divorced father of six grown children.

Scientist

Philosopher

Writer

Recluse

Born in the late twelfth century on the island now named Svalbard, Mr. Kurt invented the word, pudding. In his youth he would travel the world in a dinghy looking for things beginning with the letter H. He found none. At the age of 30, during his blue period, he would repeatedly hold his breath for between three and four minutes, while sitting on icebergs. By forty-five, the now gangrenous poet to be, had grown to over fifteen feet tall and could telepathically communicate with lichen. In the year 1209, while staying at a cheap motel, he was bitten over a million times by radio-active bed bugs, and was inspired to write his now completely unknown trilogy of books: Um.... something to do with bed bugs I'm guessing. But maybe not. After his first funeral in 1212, he committed suicide every other day for six years until writing his epic poem: " Soap dish" in which he compared the letter J to a soap dish for some reason. Nearly eight hundred years passed before he would pick up a pen again and write the sequel to the Bible called, " The Bobble" . Today Mr. Kurt is a semi porous wall sponce and stains amnesia buttons.

(haiku) Progress?

Sequential movement

Overcoming entropy

Often negative

Kelly Kurt

(limerick) Omnipotent Limitations

If I had just one question to ask
Without needing to don a fool's mask
I'd enquire of God
Could he make zero odd
And see if he was up to the task

I have yet to hear anything back
Perhaps his magic is out of whack
Tho it's hard to reply
From way up in the sky
When your realness is at such a lack

Kelly Kurt

(senryu Series) Famous Dogs

Lassie

Three rapid barks mean
Quick, Timmy's stuck in the well
One means, I'm hungry

Snoopy

Charles Schultz's beagle
World War One doghouse pilot
Nosy new neighbor

Brian Griffin

Wannabe author
Lascivious Labrador
Animated sot

Old Yeller

A boy and his dog
Coming of age chronicle
Many a grandma?

Scooby Doo

Gangling Great Dane dick
Bottomless pit of hunger
Scat singers lyrics

Toto

Exposed the Wizard
Appeared in many Baum books
Phalanges of feet?

Goofy and Pluto

Why does one wear clothes?

Daft Disney dichotomy
Guess which one I am

Spot

Have you seen him run?
Dick and Jane's lackluster pet
After hit by car?

Kelly Kurt

(tanka) Residence

Nowhere external
Beauty's held captive inside
Freed by a flower
Released by admiration
Put to death by apathy

Kelly Kurt

...Than Thou

Why do some think they can tell others
How they should live their lives
And all the horrific consequences
Should they not strictly adhere
How can they believe that suffering
Is some part of a great master plan
Purposely designed
Who can absolutely say
That out of all the thousands of religions
Theirs is the only true one
Would any of them attempt
Honestly
To define exactly what they believe
And why
That is how I finally abandoned
My hither-to unexamined preconceptions
And unfounded beliefs
Once the shock wore off
Of years of pre-programming
Being found to be absurd
At best
It becomes crystal clear
Nothing holds up
To any form of rational examination
Heaven is off the table now
But reality has been served
The swap may be gut wrenching for many
But I prefer being aware
For that, I am judged
And condemned by the 'holy'

Kelly Kurt

12/26

December twenty-sixth
Thanksgiving is long past
All anticipation, preparation and anxiety over Christmas
Is behind
It is cold
Back to work
Back to traffic
Back to....Reality
Wrapping paper clogs your garbage
Indigestion clouds your mind
Whether five, or one hundred-five
Next Monday the routine of life starts again
What's next?
Valentine's Day?
St. Patrick's?
The fourth of July?
Nothing else seems reasonably close
To the month long season that just ended
Worst day of the year?
December twenty-sixth

Kelly Kurt

21st Century Mentality

We are children as a species
Infants with bombs
Toddlers with technology
Social yet foolish
Sentient but unsophisticated
Wasting our time
Our grotesquely fleeting time

Kelly Kurt

60s Bands (Senryu Series)

The Beatles

British invasion
Innovative and diverse
Screaming teenage girls

The Who

My Generation
The rock opera 'Tommy'
Mod-Rock pacesetters

Led Zeppelin

Guitar driven sound
Psychedelic, bluesy metal
Overindulgence

Pink Floyd

Mind-altering songs
Songs have a life of their own
Breathtaking stage shows

The Doors

Played sans bass guitar
In Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
Morrison died young

The Beach Boys

California sound
Iconic surfer music
Gave good vibrations

Jimi Hendrix

Woodstock headliner

Influential guitarist
Purple Haze endures

The Rolling Stones

Jagger, Richards, Watts
Inspired by Muddy Waters
Playing to this day

Kelly Kurt

80 Proof Fairy (Limerick)

Peter Pan's fairy sure likes to drink
Expensive vodka tickles her pink
After draining a flask
There is no need to ask
Why her friends have dubbed her pickled Tink

Kelly Kurt

A Certain Shame

I have a dear friend that is dying
Given six months, thirty months ago
But on a daily basis
I don't care if my existence ends
If only I could give my presence to her
What a strange juxtaposition
Her struggling to survive
Me, not worrying
Not caring
Her strength is phenomenal
After all this time, even her children have acquiesced
I can't begin to grasp her mindset
The totality, finality of her disease
The daily struggles to endure
The intuitive yearning to breathe
And me
Not afraid or anxious
Impatiently anticipating demise
Knowing that there is no alternative
No option
The flickering; teases, torments, taunts
Would prescience alter thinking?
A change in conviction modulate?
I am ashamed
I have what others write for
Why can't I embrace it?

Kelly Kurt

A Cute Angle (Limerick)

Shivering and shaking at the knees
So cold, she feared some fatal disease
Go do like Jack Horner
And stand in the corner
They're usually ninety degrees

Kelly Kurt

A Day Devoted To Myth

Long before critical thinking among the masses
Stories were passed down without consideration
Is this true?
What are the facts?
Does this hold veracity?
Or is it simply a wish, a fable?
No historical proof of a Jesus
No experiential validity
A two thousand year old tale
Told and told again til believed
Many such tales exist among cultures
A hero, a savior
There is no God
There are no saints
Afterlife, a comforting delusion
Human nature invents, fills in gaps, wishes
No proof is needed
Only belief based on fear
Colored eggs distract
Churches fill only on this day
THERE IS NO GOD!
Show me otherwise and I will consider

Kelly Kurt

A Door (Haiku)

Where do you go now?
It depends on where you are
A door works both ways

Kelly Kurt

A Door 2 (Haiku)

They sought a new truth□
The door opened yet again
Still, no one entered

Kelly Kurt

A Feathered Faux Pas (Limerick)

Doc Doolittle wanted to talk bird
Without appearing to look absurd
Gave a speech to a flock
Caught some flak from a cock
It seems he had uttered an Auk word

Kelly Kurt

A Few Of My Favorite Things

Eggs, bread, milk

Sour cream, pasta

Chips, hot dogs, mustard

Frozen pizza, peanut butter

Canned soup

OOPS!

That's my shopping list: -)

Kelly Kurt

A Good Haiku? (Haiku)

Make the reader think
Many interpretations
All reason, no rhyme

Kelly Kurt

A Lesson (Haiku)

The Haiku's message
Don't remember the poet
Remember the poem

Kelly Kurt

A Moment In Time

Think!
It may not be your expertise
Some take advantage
The rest acquiesce
The difference between the haves and have nots
Is usurped
Artificial
Tolerated
Mutiny!
Recalcitrance
Equality
Change the paradigm
If you care
Before it's too late
Does it matter?
It's up to us
One more blink
Or eyes open?
One chance

Kelly Kurt

A Murder!(Of Crows)

The crows gathered today
Not all in one spot, mind you
Six or seven in the large elm at the end of the block
Another group, right above me in the oak
Several unseen covens dotted in earshot
All the while being circled by more
The loud cries of this murder
Made the rounds like a drinking song
Restless, after a verse or three
Exchanging positions
Large, black calligraphic musical notes
Shifting the cadence, annotating the sky and branches
When their summit concluded
They were gone
Leaving silence in their wake

Kelly Kurt

A Nice Surprise (Not)

The light seemed brighter this morning
Pouring in through my windows
Last Monday it was sunny and 74°
What splendor did this day hold?
The third of spring
Three inches of snow

Kelly Kurt

A Pause For The Squirrel Show

They paired off
Camouflaged against the abundant dead leaves
Scampering almost Obscured
The crackle of crisp foliage beneath their feet
Gave away their position
Rearing up on hind legs
Scanning their territory
Ever alert for predators
Or intrusive gardeners
A twosome in the oaks spiraled up the trunk
Barking and chirping throughout the chase
Gaining the attention of the earthbound duo
One of which was now carrying a chestnut
Nearly as large as its head
With the ferocity of a jackhammer
A hole was burrowed
Large enough to secrete his future supper
Covered up in a flash and tamped down
A distant dog's bark sent them panicking
Across the yard and up to the bare boughs
The cabaret over, I returned to raking

Kelly Kurt

A Place

I'd like to come into your dreams
I've been removed from mine
That space is saved, or so it seems
Somehow I've drawn a line
In days gone by, I had my own
I dreamt of things to come
Seeds of thought, as yet unsown
It left my mind quite numb
In your dreams is there a place
For me to come and sit?
All I need's a little space
Somewhere where I could fit

I'd like to come into your life
I've been removed from mine
Cut out with pain and sorrow's knife
All day I sit and pine
When my life was in my hands
I knew just what to do
But now it's not, and as it stands
My only hope is you
In your life is there some room?
A place for me to stay
Away from all my lonely gloom
Let me move in today

Kelly Kurt

A Poem's Dream

In a world of poems, where everything's a verse
A poem had a dream about me
It became excited and promptly recited
The words that caused me to be
In reciprocal fashion, I dreamed of the poem
The lyrics of which, gave it life
So beautiful was it, and I lived because it
So I asked it to become my wife
Alas, we wakened from our shared reverie
As the world stirred to a new dawn
Twas doubly unkind in reality to find
The two of us forever gone

Kelly Kurt

A Priori Thought?

As creative and imaginative as a mortal may be
As insightful and abundantly taught
After thousands of generations preceding us
Can man now have an A priori thought?

Kelly Kurt

A Seed (Haiku)

I planted one seed
In the minds of the masses
A whole forest grew

Kelly Kurt

A Small Bend (Haiku)

Where do you go now?
It may be just a small bend
That changes your course

Kelly Kurt

A Smile

See the transparent shield of indifference
The repelling force that separates men?
Faces, just faces
Minds, thoughts, lives, a wealth of diversity
What has time taught us to be?
No man can exist as an isolated entity
Not caring, aloft or in a pit
Contained within himself
A smile
The piercing shell that shatters the shield
The irrepressible force that binds our hearts
Names, not just faces
Shared thoughts, ideas and a mutual concern
All links in a chain, dependent upon the strength of unity
No one better, none worse
A smile
Hope

Kelly Kurt

A Tower (Haiku)

You built a tower
It gleamed with silvery rays
Years later, it fell

Kelly Kurt

A World Of Good

Yes, there is a lot of evil out there
The nightly news makes that well understood
But even without rose colored glasses
I'm able to see a whole world of good
You don't even have to look very hard
It exists everywhere, as it should
Open your eyes and be part of it all
It'll do us all a whole world of good

Kelly Kurt

Abbreviations (Senryu Series)

AC

The form of power
Running air conditioners
Half of a rock band

AD

Anno Domini
Current era is now used
H.D.s distraut mate

ASAP

High priority
It is needed yesterday
Define possible

BS

Undergraduate
Degree in the sciences
Bovine excrement

COD

Pay when you get it
No credit card is needed
Saltwater food fish

DOA

Dead on arrival
A ridiculous idea
Never stood a chance

IQ

Inherited trait

Meaningless without knowledge
Iraq's net domain

P.S.

I almost forgot
Cutely precedes "I love you";
Grouchy split by M

RIP

Tombstone engraving
Ending to a eulogy
My pants were too tight

SOS

Morse code dits and dahs
Last signal from Titanic
Chipped beef over toast

TGIF

The weekend is nigh
I really don't like my job
The clock's not moving

UFO

What the heck is that?
It's just a weather balloon
Come abduct me please

VIP

Why limos were made
Wholly subjective concept
Friends and family

Kelly Kurt

Abscess Makes The Fart Glow Yonder (Limerick)

Dermatologists can't explain us
It made the twin pimples feel heinous
Separated at birth
Tho both natives of Earth
The bigger one lived on Ur anus

Kelly Kurt

Absolutes

What is, is

What isn't, isn't

It cannot be both

It cannot be neither

Not my rules

Just the way it works

Kelly Kurt

Accept After We

In order to correctly spell deceive
Remember I before E except after C
To try to forget the love that I grieve
I evoke; I before thee and accept after we

Kelly Kurt

Accidental Education

I am just an average guy in most ways
Replete with faults, hopes and idiosyncrasies
I have my own likes and dislikes
All very subjective, of course
One thing I cannot seem to get enough of though
Information
There are so many things that interest me
Sciences, philosophy, history, cultures
I wish I could the entirety
The sum of human knowledge
Directly into my brain
But I have to do it the slow, old fashioned way
Through reading, listening and observing
After years of this approach
I have accumulated only a fraction of a fraction
Of a fraction of a fraction.....At best
Because of my partialities, some subjects predominate
But my love of poetry has opened doors
Without intention, while reading poems
Works by authors in the global village
I come across subjects on which I know little
Or nothing
Poems about their countries, cultures, religions
Their personal, particular interests
I learn, I grow
I cannot overstate my appreciation
For this accidental education

Kelly Kurt

Accountability (Haiku)

Things could be better
Usually not by themselves
Your help is required

Kelly Kurt

Accurate State Of Consciousness

Born and raised as Catholic, I was taught to pray
No proof of a creator god
But his existence was expounded anyway

So widely accepted was this baseless belief
Programmed and pervasively set
It undermined reality without relief

Conscious life conducted under trusted pretense
Distorted even little things
Until I finally came fully to my sense

Awakening from this inflicted altered state
To the lucid, physical world
Changed many perspectives before it was too late

It did not change my ethics or morality
But opened my eyes to madness
And acknowledgment of my own mortality

Still, most will argue to assure and comfort self
An altered state of consciousness
Purchased with paradox, paid piously with pelf

Kelly Kurt

Aces Over Douches (Limerick)

This bad beat is certain to quell you
Racists, I have something to tell you
Urban jungle or sward
Not the suit, but the card
Determines a human's true value

Kelly Kurt

Aches And Pains

Teenage nonplus
Every effort results in bother
Back, joints, muscles, mind
Simply existing offends
Each step, ponderous
Changing underwear, a mission
Is it possible that hair can throb?
I used to move freely
No thought to a jump
I know that I am alive
Pain is proof

Kelly Kurt

Acrophobia? (Limerick)

My butcher is a wagering guy
So I bet a grand he couldn't fly
To the top shelf for meat
(Wasn't up to the feat)
He declined cause the steaks were too high

Kelly Kurt

Acting (Senryu Series)

Cast

Group of thespians
Plaster of Paris bandage
Fisherman's fly fling

Ad Lib

Spur-of-the-moment
Not in the script, but it works
To 'I do' for lust

Lead

The star of the show
Or just get out of the way
Heavy element

Cameo

Bit part in scene
Alfred Hitchcock specialty
Silhouette in stone

Extra

Background performer
A superfluous amount
Read all about it

Ham

Shameless emoter
Amateur radio buff
Goes well with green eggs

Understudy

Knows lines, just in case

That is why he failed the test
Peruse below ground?

Kelly Kurt

Adopt Adaptation (Limerick)

Upon a much closer inspection
All things up and change their direction
Not all will stay alive
Just the fittest survive
Theory of natural selection

Kelly Kurt

Advertising

The quickest way to discern the ethos
Of any culture or nation on Earth
Is to see how and what they advertise
Whereby brainwashing their people from birth
Told what to want and how 'true' beauty looks
And what popular folks can't do without
Big business and government seem to share
An unreasonable amount of clout
I can only speak of where I reside
But assume many places are the same
Fashion, big breasts and the latest cell phone
Compel consumers, like moths, to the flame

Kelly Kurt

Advertising (Senryu Series)

Jingle

Ditty with a hook
The clinking of Santa's bells
Sound my money makes

Bait and Switch

I came in for that
But somehow I left with this
Fisherman's gambit?

Plug

Mention in public
Electrical connecter
Wad of tobacco

Subliminal

Beneath the surface
Without conscious awareness
Manipulation

Madison Avenue

One-way street northbound
Erstwhile marketing center
Upscale retailer site

Testimonial

Recommendation
I'm getting paid for this, right?
Tribute meant to honor

Telemarketing

Don't call after five

In fact, do not call at all
I will call you. Not!

Kelly Kurt

Advice (Senryu Series)

Don't Shop on an Empty Stomach

Everything looks good
The candy bars are on sale
Bread and eggs must wait

Everything in Moderation

Balance is the key
Too much of a good thing harms
Nothing is exempt

Learn From Your Mistakes

To do the same things
Expecting improved results
Is insanity

Don't Make a Bad Thing Worse

If it seems bad now
How can adding faults to that
Improve anything

Don't Make Decisions When Mad, or Promises When Happy

Let clear thoughts prevail
Emotions are dangerous
Mom says count to ten

Don't Believe Everything You Hear

Demand evidence
Gut feelings aren't enough
That's not how life works

Measure Twice, Cut Once

You can't add wood on

Nor can you undo the past
Be sure the first time

Knowledge is Power

That is the reason
Governments and religions
Want to keep you dumb

Be Good, Be Smart, Be Happy

This is my advice
The first two propositions
Help lead to the third

Kelly Kurt

Affection Reflection (Limerick)

Initial connections oft scatter
When one of the twosome gets fatter
If your instincts were right
Twas love at first insight
And the way one looks doesn't matter

Kelly Kurt

Afterthought (Senryu)

A little too late
I will know better next time
If I don't forget

Kelly Kurt

Age (Haiku)

Shallow river young
Consumes rock and time alike
Growing deep with age

Kelly Kurt

Aging

The gradient increases
Traction becomes problematic
Effort multiplies without gain
Running harder, just to stay in place

Kelly Kurt

Ahead Of The Game (Limerick)

After the fog of my ego clears
One thing I've learned in fifty-nine years
The wisdom that age brings
Is I've not learned two things
But that doesn't mean that I'm in arrears

Kelly Kurt

Airport (Senryu Series)

Runway

Airplane landing strip
You can take off from there too
Fashion show aisle

Control Tower

Airport nerve center
Coordinates jet movements
What I call my brain

Hangar

Expansive building
Storage and repair shelter
Clothes hook homonym

Radar

Aircraft detection
Shows range and velocity
Busted for speeding

TSA

Response to terror
Homeland Security run
Bungling and costly

Air Traffic Controllers

Stressful profession
Stringent hiring requirements
But high salaries

Baggage Claim

Luggage carousels

The suitcases look the same
My bag is in Guam

Kelly Kurt

Alcohol (Senryu Series)

Beer

You only rent it
Color the same, in and out
Middle-class champagne

Tequila

That's one lucky worm
Mexican embalming juice
Hasta la vista

Whiskey

Rebellious liquor
Friday night cocaine chaser
Straight up and straight down

Vodka

I'd never say nyet
Martini's clear marinade
Shot after six shots

Wine

Good grape juice gone sour
Makes snobs of common people
Dine's fancy partner

Brandy

Just wine on steroids
Drunk swifter in a snifter
Fermented candy

Absinthe

Green wormwood fairy

Loosened up Toulouse-Lautrec
Not so neutral Swiss

Moonshine

Hillbilly homebrew
White lightning and mountain dew
Taste is not the point

Kelly Kurt

Ali Sabry

Selfish fool
No one can read all
No one cares to
Why do you try?
Bother to read?
Bother to participate?
What difference does it make?
My opinion
The rest suffer
My friends

Kelly Kurt

All (Tanka)

Fundamental source

Atoms, ice, mountains, trees, me

Intimately one

Intermingling, exchanging

No purpose beyond being

Kelly Kurt

Allergens (Senryu Series)

Nuts

My face is puffed-up
Get me to a hospital!
No more snickers bars

Pollen

Plant ejaculate
There's no hay, nor a fever
I can't stop sneezing

Shellfish

But crab tastes so good
Swelling precludes swallowing
Calamitous clams

Dust

I'm inhaling mites
Dead epithelial cells
To it we'll return

Wheat

Pervasive staple
No bread or pasta for you
Crap! No cake either

Eggs

Perfect food my butt!
Stay away Humpty Dumpty
They are for the birds

Dander

You can't own a pet

Would dandruff shampoo help out?
It sure raises mine

Milk

At its worst in kids
Not lactose intolerance
Dairy is scary

Mold

Fungus among us
Can I have penicillin?
A cause of migraines

Bees

Summertime hazard
Anaphylaxis danger
Epinephrine helps

Kelly Kurt

Allow Yourself To See

The wings of my mind are spread in flight
The ballast of human existence shed
Soaring free on cushions of light
Sustained by the hope of what's ahead
Passing the destinies of others I cry
Fog-bound lives hang in doubt
With all of my vigor, I give my best try
Unable still to let them out
Beyond all others now, I float
Alone and aware of my fate
My role is not to sit and gloat
But to warn before it's too late
Evaporate your dewy thoughts
Of how things seem to be
Rise above the dense façade
And allow yourself to see

Kelly Kurt

Allowed

Lying down in the cold night air
Not at all sure that I'll awake
Not all that sure that I should care
Just caring for caring's sake
No more progress will morning bring
A day like all of the others
Millions will bow before a king
And believers will slay mothers
Thousands will die for lack of food
Thousands will buy a Mercedes
Color of skin determines good
Men will still dominate ladies
It hurts me when my eyes unclose
Aware of the world around me
Worse even than I can suppose
And no reason for it to be

Kelly Kurt

Almost Ideal (Haiku)

Nearly perfect day
Warm, clear sky, gentle breezes
Shared with Nobody

Kelly Kurt

Alone

A tree in a desert
A comet in space
An idea unexpressed
The first or the last
Perhaps the only
Asleep in a dream
Lost at sea
A bug in a jar
The nose on your face
The moon in our sky
The first second of time
Adam before Eve
Me, before you
Alone

Kelly Kurt

Alpha Bet

Someone had to be the first
The first human to do anything
Everything, which a person has ever done
Pile stones loosely, forming a crude shelter
Put a seed in the ground and nurture it
Build a fire, collect ore and melt it to forge a tool
Notice the medicinal properties of certain plants
Watch a log float down a river, and emulate it
Correlate vocalizations with intent
From the first to set foot out of a tree
To the first to conceptualize an atom
To the first to contemplate splitting it for power
Firsts seem to be scarce now-a-days
Nonetheless equally as spectacular
Can it be that everything will end with a first?
The first to destroy all life on this planet
I wager I'm not the first to consider that possibility

Kelly Kurt

Alphabet (Senryu Series)

A

Superior grade
Indefinite article
Inaugurates lists

B

Familiar blood type
Homonym for stinging bug
It's bed or breakfast

C

Just a so-so mark
Speed of light in a vacuum
Scurvy vitamin

D

Roman five-hundred
Unwelcome before O.A.
Calcium support

E

Quickest form of mail
A cardinal direction
Old McDonald's vowel

F

Do not pass your class
Bomb dropped in conversation
Airforce jet prefix

G

Force holding you down
Appropriate kids rating
The spot to be hit

H

Puts A-bomb to shame
Preparation for one's butt
One fourth of a club

I

The guy that wrote this
Twenty-first century phone
One to Cicero

J

Potter's K. Rowling
Marijuana cigarette
Illegal walking

K

A strike in baseball
Informal affirmative
Metric race distance

L

One size up from M
Horace's half a hundred
Hockey-stick in hell

M

Half a round candy
The checkmark for my gender
Do not dial, or else

N

Atmospheric gas
Indefinite whole number
Auto idling gear

O

The big one rocks worlds
Universal donor type
Shocked interjection

P

Minded with your Q's
Glow in the dark element
Standard's needy pal

Q

Useless without U
A's interrogative mate
Smart following I

R
Instruction trio
Unsuitable for minors
Half diameter

S
Plural producer
Apostrophe follower
Snakes vernacular

T
Well suited letter
Decision intersection
Rex's initial

U
A one-eighty turn
Texter's abbreviation
Conceited college

V
Triumphant symbol
Eight make a nutritious drink
Roe Wade connector

W
An up-side-down M
Income-tax document start
World Wide Web must-have

X
The spot is marked here
Signature substitution
Symbolic kisses

Y
The male chromosome
Cartesian coordinate

Village people's home

Z

The Greek Omega

Appropriately zig-zag

Sleepy in series

Kelly Kurt

Alternative Use

Clear, rectangular, plastic caddy
Austerely ornamenting the counter
Indicator of seasonal change
Summer's butter softened, spreadable
Winter's, solid. Hell on soft bread

Kelly Kurt

Altitude And Attitude

Our attitude changes how we perceive
And are perceived
Altitude can do the same
From standing view we see our world
As immense, diverse and transient
Atop a skyscraper, it seems to shrink
Into an ant farm
From six miles high in a jet
The world is a coloring book
And from the moon it is clear
One small planet, blue against the black
One rare home to all life
No artificial borders
Just our Earth
Adjust your attitude
Achieve altitude

Kelly Kurt

Always

Always be there for the ones that you love
But likewise do so for others
Always say please and thank you
Like you were taught by your mothers
There aren't many things you should always do
Most dealings require a fresh start
But always retain this advice
Employ both your head and your heart

Kelly Kurt

American States (Senryu Series)

Alabama

Has its own 'State Booze'
College football's Crimson Tide
The heart of Dixie

Alaska

The longest coastline
Known for growing peonies
Largest U.S. State

Arizona

Meteor crater
Last of contiguous states
Home to Grand Canyon

Arkansas

Bill Clinton's home state
Produced world's finest diamond
Don't pronounce last S

California

Most populous state
Planet's oldest living trees
Home to Hollywood

Colorado

Rocky mountain state
A near perfect rectangle
Skier's paradise

Connecticut

Noah Webster's home

Southernmost New England state
Ivy League school Yale

Delaware

Settled first by Swedes
Generous tax haven laws
Curved northern border

Florida

Fountain of youth myth
Synonymous with sunshine
Means land of flowers

Georgia

Start of Trail of Tears
Last of thirteen colonies
It is on my mind

Hawaii

Has its own time zone
Lone U.S. royal palace
Last state admitted

Idaho

Potato central
Furthest inland port in west
Known as the Gem State

Illinois

Hey, that's where I live
Nicknamed 'the land of Lincoln'
Barack Obama

Indiana

Locals called Hoosiers

Notre Dame Fighting Irish
Indy 500

Iowa

State where I was born
In the heart of the Corn Belt
Tantamount to corn

Kansas

Tornado target
Flattest state in the union
The Sunflower State

Kentucky

Mammoth cave system
Derby part of Triple Crown
Fort Knox gold stockpile

Louisiana

Mardi Gras milieu
One in eighty-six are jailed
Born on the bayou

Maine

Borders just one state
Maple syrup and lobster
Eastern most of states

Maryland

Split by Chesapeake
Highest median income
Named for queen from France

Massachusetts

Boston tea party

Formally a commonwealth
Hardest one to spell

Michigan

Called the Great Lakes State
The nation's cereal bowl
Abuts four great lakes

Minnesota

Home of the Vikings
More than claimed 10,000 lakes
Mississippi source

Mississippi

Namesake of river
Birthplace of Oprah Winfrey
Used to count to ten

Missouri

Dubbed the show me state
Inspiration to Mark Twain
Gateway to the west

Montana

Called Big Sky Country
Least obese state in nation
Spanish for mountain

Nebraska

Home state of Kool-Aid
Sandhill crane sanctuary
Omaha Stockyards

Nevada

Nations driest state

Legalized prostitution
Nuclear test sites

New Hampshire

Dubbed the granite state
State motto: Live free or die
First state primary

New Jersey

Thomas Edison
Garden State appellation
Miss America

New Mexico

Smokey Bear's origin
Idiots denied voting
UFO central

New York

Niagara Falls
Largest city has same name
Named for Duke of York

North Carolina

Wright brothers' first flight
Mount Mitchell, highest in the east
Great Smoky Mountains

North Dakota

Least visited state
Most churches per capita
Capitol: Bismarck

Ohio

Famous for buckeyes

Iroquois for Great River
Dearth of consonants

Oklahoma

Meaning 'Red People'
State capitol has oil wells
Tornado Alley

Oregon

Pacific Northwest
Crater Lake; nation's deepest
Beautiful Mt. Hood

Pennsylvania

Named for William Penn
Spelled wrong on Liberty Bell
Called the Keystone state

Rhode Island

The nation's smallest
Has longest official name
One seventh water

South Carolina

The Palmetto State
First to secede from union
Named after King Charles

South Dakota

Home to Mount Rushmore
Has never had an earthquake
Badlands Wilderness

Tennessee

Grand Old Opry home

Tuxedoed cartoon penguin
The Volunteer State

Texas

Lone star on its flag
Remember the Alamo
Kennedy killed there

Utah

Monument Valley
Large Mormon population
Bonneville Salt Flats

Vermont

Maple syrup scene
Safest state in the country
The Green Mountain State

Virginia

Home to Pentagon
Birthplace of eight presidents
Blue Ridge Mountains

Washington

The Evergreen State
Named after founding father
Large ferry system

West Virginia

World's first brick-paved street
Formed during the Civil War
Appalachia

Wisconsin

Paper producer

America's Dairyland
Driftless Area

Wyoming

Last alphabetically
Yellowstone National Park
Least populated

Kelly Kurt

Amethyst (Haiku)

Heliotrope stone
Fabled drunkenness blocker
It intoxicates

Kelly Kurt

An Afternoon With Bud

Another temperate autumn day invited me outside to play
The wind was blowing brisk, tumbling leaves of all sorts
They sighed to their kin, still in the trees, as they wandered
Multi-colored sprays cavorted above, promising to soon join
The exchange of windborne whispers, sadly beautiful
I came upon my bunny friend, nestled in his hosta hide-away
As I sat down, no more than a foot from his twitching nose
He leapt up and did a tantric jig, circumnavigating me
A friendly and playful welcome, I assume
After his silliness, he sat, inches from my crossed legs
Engaging me in a staring contest. (I won.)
Comfortable with my presence, he stretched out on his belly
Front and rear legs at their full extent, doubling his length
A large, crisp oak leaf drifted down diagonally
Landing directly on his upright, outward facing ears
Airborne and pivoting, he instantly dashed for cover
I did not mean to embarrass him with my raucous laughter
But he stayed under the equally shuddering hosta for a while
I apologized for my snickering and he joined me once again
Energy expended in his pulse pounding pirouette
He proceeded to brunch on the clover by my now outstretched legs
I sprawled out on my side, my head supported by my left hand
Just sharing the occasion in peace
No idea what time it was or how long I had been outside
Suddenly, a large combine raced down the street
A resounding roar from its engine, and tires assaulting the pavement
Panicked poor Bud and he scurried off, out of sight.
I remained, horizontal in the grass for a few more moments
Eyes closed, smiling

Kelly Kurt

Anchored (Senryu)

Rising tides; buoyant
Yachts and rafts, lifted alike
Unless tethered down

Kelly Kurt

And Much More

Who was the first to give flowers to a love?
What is the happiest word in the world?
Where is your sentience while you sleep?
When is eternity's mid-way point?
Why do people have faith in the unknowable?
How do you spell the sound a cricket makes?
All these things and much more
Live in the mind and heart
Of a poet

Kelly Kurt

And What's In The Cabinet? (Limerick)

Result of Republican's Fall win
Politician out, oligarchs in
Tho they're one in the same
Verging on all but name
I'm not sure which one's the evil twin

Kelly Kurt

Animal Groups (Senryu Series)

Swarm

Teeming host of bees
Unambiguous droning
Minions of the queen

Herd

Cowhand's assignment
Serenely grazing in fields
Stampedes can be heard

Pack

There's strength in numbers
Only one can be Alpha
Six beers and you howl

School

Safety midst masses
Outer flank vulnerable
So what did we learn?

Gaggle

Multitude of geese
Take a gander silly goose
Grandma's knitting club

Pride

Goeth before fall
Looks more like sloth quite often
Lion's vanity?

Flock

Seagull and sheep set

Birds of a feather approach
Pastor's naïve host

Gam

A pod in motion
Cetacean federation
Starlet's shapely leg

Kelly Kurt

Animal Instinct

Anticipating sunset, simplicity at its best
Track the big, bright, shining ball as it arcs from east to west
When it hangs near the horizon, the bats know when to fly
Cicadas start their lovesick shrieks, primrose opens its eye
Shrewder still, the beasts that await the coming of the sun
On cloudy nights they have no prompts, yet know when dawn will come
The wren sings out his presence, morning glories stretch their blooms
Fireflies put out their torch ere the new eastern sun looms

Kelly Kurt

Animals We

There is no doubt that we are animals
One of the countless numbers that have existed
Mammals, primates, still instinctively habituated
A mere ten thousand years from stone and bone
Stripped of fur but still hunters
Wild
Savage
Reacting with haste and violence
Selfish, even in the tightest social order
We are nothing special
Yet

Kelly Kurt

Anniversary Gifts (Senryu Series)

Paper (1st)

The page is still new
Delicate and flammable
Origami rose

Wood (5th)

Deeper, stronger roots
Forgiving as mighty oaks
Bark is worse than bite

Tin (10th)

Protection from rust
Preserving longevity
Still malleable

Crystal (15th)

Love's transparency
Exclusive time's investment
Seen through to the heart

China (20th)

Fragile elegance
Fired in the kiln of patience
Hand painted patterns

Silver (25th)

Shining radiance
Electrical conductance
Color of tresses

Gold (50th)

Precious asset

Symbolic prosperity
Resists corrosion

Kelly Kurt

Annunciation (Limerick)

They wanted the republican nod
(Said they already got it from god)
Why do Christians set in
When the devil will win
(Tho they're just like two peas in a pod)

Kelly Kurt

Anticipation

Eager expectation is a scarce commodity
Most nights, eyes are closed with acquiescence
The following day will be as preceding days
Trivial happenstances and nuanced irregularities
Occasionally flicker, flavoring the familiar
But Every now and then, something looms
A holiday, birthday or special event
A rendezvous
Time dilates, compulsory concentration wilts
Sleep is restless at best
Looking forward to something, anything, is exhilarating
Invigorating
With few exceptions, the excursion
Surpasses the objective

Kelly Kurt

Apathy (Tanka)

How can it be so
That from my dark basement room
So much can be seen
When in the light of the world
So many others are blind

Kelly Kurt

Apathy Epidemic

Wrapped up in themselves
Rapt with the culture of 'stuff'
Concerned largely with status
An hour's drive, their world
Essentially decent societies fester
Patriotic pomposity
Religious insincerity
Generate vacuity
Traveling at the speed of dark

Kelly Kurt

Ape-X (Senryu)

Ninety-nine percent
Myself and a chimpanzee
DNA brothers

Kelly Kurt

Appellation Abrogation

A rose brings delight
Delicate petals and scent
The very word elicits beauty
Call it an abomination, it still enchants
No alteration in aroma
It is what it is
War
Call it a conflict
A campaign, crusade, struggle, righteous cause
Rechristen it as rainbow
Bunny, honey, sunny
Always an atrocity
No way to ameliorate
It is what it is

Kelly Kurt

Appreciation (Senryu)

Drafty old windows
Thermostat set to fifty
Blanket keeps me warm

Kelly Kurt

Approximately Negligible

Totality

The current extent of the established

Amending daily

So far ahead

So far behind

A great time to live

Or the worst

Kelly Kurt

April (Haiku)

Thirsty buds appear
Precipitation quickens
Monochrome expires

Kelly Kurt

Are Humans The Superior Species (Satire) Long

Prevailing sentiment among Homo sapiens is that our species has evolved to be the pinnacle of life forms. We are superior, the ultimate outcome and perhaps the end product and purpose of the universe.

I have long held a deep aversion to hyperbole, and the statements above are contributing factors to that fact. Let us start with the obvious. Is Man the fastest, strongest or most agile animal? Not by a long shot. Are we so uniquely adapted to any environment so as to thrive there better than any other creature? Of course not. Genetically and evolutionarily speaking, as physical specimens, we leave much to be desired. Yes, a big hurrah for the opposable thumb, but left to our own in just about any environment, the average human would perish in a matter of weeks, if not days.

So then, it must be our mental faculties that enshrine us as this planet's gods. Our ability to think and to reason, along with our innate ethical and moral sensibilities set us above all other forms of life and entitle us to complete dominion of nature. Again, I have problems accepting arguments with such lofty verbiage. To be fair, a competitor should be chosen to go up against my species in a one-on-one contest. For fairness sake, I have eliminated the ends of the animal kingdom spectrum, (dolphins, apes, dogs and plankton, tube worms and jellyfish.) and chosen, quite arbitrarily, goats. (It actually doesn't make any difference.)

In the past 10,000 years, have any goats, herds of goats or any other assemblage of goats ever started a war? Now I mean for any reason; power, territory, resources, greed or just plain malevolence. Have they indiscriminately shot, bombed, poisoned or in any other way killed innocent women and children and destroyed towns, fields or complete countries or cultures?

No?

Goats-1, Humans-0

In the same aforementioned time frame, have our opponents ever deliberately and knowingly and continually destroyed their environment? Have they brought entire species to extinction? Have they ever stripped nonrenewable resources to the point of exhaustion?

No?

Goats-2, Humans-0

Again, 10,000 years; goats. Have they ever, at the expense of any or all others, accumulated money or wealth in the form of material objects? Have they surpassed the sublime and exceeded the ridiculous in the amassing of said fortunes? Have their obsessions with wealth cost them their families, health, love or sanity? Do 1% of all goats own 90% of the world's wealth and resources?

No?

Goats-3, Humans-0

Have goats ever created a governing system based on equality, freedom and representation of the people, by the people and for the people and honestly believe that is what happens? Do goat politicians get elected to office because they have money, influence and powerful supporters and are among the severely limited field of options that in reality are not truly options in the whole sense of the word? Do; not some or most, but all political goats, from small town aldermen to the Capra (goat genus.) president abuse their power? Do they squabble like five year olds in rival playpen clubs? Do they listen to big business and lobbyists and then act on their behest as opposed to heeding the voice of the majority of their constituency? Does the goat public allow this to be that way, generation after generation?

No?

Goats-4, Humans-0

To be fair, have goats ever explored the solar system? Have they discovered DNA and mapped their genome? Have they written a symphony, built a pyramid or skyscraper, painted a still life or pondered their own existence?

No?

Goats-4, Humans-1 We are on the board!

Have goats ever felt the need to create a religion? Have they ever compiled "sacred" texts with more insane beliefs, rules and hypocritical, antithetical doctrines than you or the population of the land hemisphere could ever shake a stick at? Have goats killed or gone to war in the name of their religion and its God?

No?

Goats-5, Humans-1

Do goats bow to peer pressure? Do they acquiesce to societal norms? Do goats do the same things over and over again and expect different outcomes? Do goats cling tenaciously to the status quo for fear they may be ostracized, or worse still, have to think for themselves? Is a goats main reasoning when asked, why they do X or think Y or want Z, "Because that's how it's always been." Or "I dunno."? Do goats believe everything they hear or read without question?

No?

Goats-6, Humans-1

Have goats ever created so many ridiculous, ill worded, manipulative, sometimes self-serving laws that to print them out on paper would devastate entire forests? Do goat systems of law serve more the need to create lawyers than to fairly and safely regulate civilized, modern society? Does the goat justice system consist of overpaid, second-rate thespians, far less concerned with truth and equity than with reputation and pay?

No?

Goats-7, Humans-1

In this, the 21st century, do goats still not only allow, but glorify sports and their participants that encourage violence and physical trauma? Do goats arrest and jail someone if they so much as slap somebody, but cheer when a hockey fight breaks out and someone loses his teeth...or consciousness? Do goats, armed with the latest medical evidence, statistics and anecdotal tales of horror and sadness still allow boxing, football and other violent, injurious sports to take place so ubiquitously even with athletes as young as five years old?

No?

Goats-8, Humans-1

Do goats hold any prejudices against color, nationality, sexual preference, gender, socio-economic status or age?

No?

Goats-9, Humans-1

I'm still kind of rooting for humans but have goats ever divided up the planet into over 200 separate, self-contained countries; the inhabitants of which routinely and rhetorically use patriotism and hubris to defend any internal problems or external aggression, and historically fracture relationships, families and entire continents?

No?

Goats 10, Humans-1

Do goats give a rat's ass about the Kardashians, rap "stars" or Hollywood gossip?

No?

Goats-11, Humans-1

By virtue of the slaughter rule, I must now declare, not a winner, but a loser. As not only a member of the human species (not race) but as a father to six other members of this set, I am saddened. I can imagine no foreseeable time in which we, as a whole, will best goats. This is not an eternal, all inclusive damnation, as there is currently a small percentage of the population that can defeat goats in all categories.

If we don't destroy ourselves and our world in the next five to ten generations, that percentage will slowly increase until the day comes that goats may well finally have a reason to admire us.

Kelly Kurt

Are We One?

What is it that's missing?
I don't know why, but this is wrong
I am, but only to the point of existing
The world passes by like so many dreams
Is that where I belong?

Are you like me too?
Could it be that what I am missing is you?
Can you give me the purpose I lack?
Can I do the same for you?
Are we one, living as two?

This is right.
I feel a change
Stay with me

Kelly Kurt

Art - 2 (Haiku)

In limitless forms
Its only requirement
Appreciation□

Kelly Kurt

Art (Haiku)

Who am I to judge?
Beauty cannot be measured
It's all subjective

Kelly Kurt

Artificial Angst

Prodded, baited; come over here
We can't kill you from where we are
To die in glory is our goal
While draining your wealth from afar
We double dog dare you is the taunt
And we fall for it every time
Like school boys in front of the girls
Beating their chests, the paradigm
We created the beast ourselves
By inserting our meddling hand
Who wouldn't become aggressive
When strangers occupy your land
There is no excuse for terror
The answer isn't eye for eye
Most differences are made by man
And every one of them, a lie

Kelly Kurt

Artistic Sacrifice

The creative person is a masochist
How easy it would be to amble through life
A straight line laid out to follow
Convention and conformity
But the poet and the artist self-impose pain
Dissecting their brains with fiery blades
Pouring blood thick essence into existence
Willing to suffer agony and anguish
Struggling to emancipate muses
To elevate sleepwalkers

Kelly Kurt

As My Eyes Close

It differs for almost everyone
Some sleep as soon as the sun sets
Others investigate the night
A large tree, across the street, stymied
Ursa Major dominated the sky
But as I mused, sleepless
The bottom right corner sputtered
The sixth of seven stars flickered
In and out of existence
Leaves, obstructing, would soon be aborted
The universe was a humble whole
Constellations coalesced into singularity
The little hand on the clock pointed to four
My eyes, still wandering, started to flutter
No marvel could longer suspend their lids
The faint glow of my starlit room
Was enough to guide me
With my last flow of energy
I dispatched my aged bones into bed
Visions of collective presence, intoning goodnight
Another star would awaken me

Kelly Kurt

As Young As I Used To Be

Carrying the large crate up seventeen stairs
I wheezed, grunted and quavered
Putting it down, I panted, swathed in sweat
There were six more left to move upstairs
Hands on my knees, I said "I'll feel this tomorrow! "
My concerned friend noticed my distress
Telling me to just take my time
He added, "You're not as young as you used to be."
I caught my breath, sat down, and thought out loud
"What a curious statement!
No one is ever as young as they used to be
Even a newborn.
I was younger, just seconds ago! "
"True" he said, "but if you want to get any older
Stop acting like you're younger."

Kelly Kurt

Astrological Exodus (Haiku)

Orion retreats
His hunting season ending
Guided by full moon

Kelly Kurt

Astronaut

Aboard my galaxy
Rotating once every 250 million years
The local group, an organism
Moving with the expansion, all around me
I appreciate the company
It's an awfully long trip

Kelly Kurt

Attrition (Senryu)

No one is immune
All pre nineteenth century
Unrepresented

Kelly Kurt

Australia (Senryu Series)

Ayers Rock

Red sandstone bluff
Natives call it Uluru
Ayers also rolled

Sydney Opera House

Six shell-shaped steeples
Juts out into the harbor
Koalas can't croon

Outback

Remote as it gets
Abundant in minerals
Good place to get steak

Kangaroos

National symbol
Hopping locomotion form
Wrong court to be in

Great Barrier Reef

Largest reef system
Can be seen from outer space
Threatened by warming

Aborigines

Indigenous group
Oldest culture on planet
Dreamtime myth stories

Kelly Kurt

Authentic Love

No physical requirements or limitations
Age, weight, beauty, wealth
If part of the fundamental equation
Detract from the emotional essence
Evolutionary, instinctual and chemical responses Initiate
Eyes meet, pulses swell, fantasies flash
Base evaluations are made
Do I have a chance?
It's only later, when familiarity enhances
Mutual concern and appreciation overtake
That the true beauty of the experience flourishes
Looks fade, wealth fluctuates, passion wanes
Sincere love perseveres

Kelly Kurt

Author (Haiku)

Gestating concepts
Birthing Imagination
Nurturing essence

Kelly Kurt

Autonomy's Price

A weary, lonely mile
Can only be walked
By a weary, lonely man
A sleepless, woeful night
Is singularly consumed
By a sleepless, woeful soul
Endless, vexing days
Are the penance
Of an uneasy mind
If this be freedom
Solitary and sustained
I must pay the price

Kelly Kurt

Autumn (Senryu Series)

Football

Soccer's big brother
Overpaid primadonnas
Weekend diversion

Harvest

Reaping what was sown
Farmer's remuneration
Early autumn moon

Leaves

Obey gravity
Deciduous spectacle
Raker's annoyance

Pumpkins

Gargantuan gourds
Seasonally popular
Disemboweled for art

School

But it's still nice out!
Beleaguered mother's respite
Life is a big one

Hayrides

First kiss location
Nostalgic transportation
After you baled out

Kelly Kurt

Autumn's Leaves (Haiku)

Outside my window□
The winds of autumn blow brisk
Your leaves are now mine

Kelly Kurt

Babies (Senryu Series)

Cradle

Miniature bed
Trimmed with shades blue or pink
Or a lap will do

Stroller

Makes babes portable
Describes buggy and pusher
Careful on that hill

Pacifier

Many varied names
But the purpose stays the same
Make that kid shut up!

Crying

See above Senryu
Attention grabbing instinct
Works for adults too

Bottles

Nipples mimic breasts
But formula can't compare
The real thing is best

Diapers

Cloth or synthetic
I must have changed ten-thousand
It's your turn honey

Lullaby

Words are not required

Soothing, rhythmic serenade
A fan works for me

Cooing

No sense does it make
Yet it's wholly understood
Unless it's just gas

Kelly Kurt

Bacteria (Haiku)

Single cell life form
Essential to human health
We're more them than us

Kelly Kurt

Bad Days

Some happen acutely, harsh - life changing
From losing a job
To a sudden, close death
Bad haircuts don't count
Most western problems shouldn't
They need your consent
To ruin your day

Kelly Kurt

Bad Limp (Limerick)

With an embarrassing malfunction
Some older men have a compunction
To swallow blue pills
To mitigate their ills
It's hard on erectile dysfunction

Kelly Kurt

Bags Of Beginnings

The dog days did their job admirably
May's diminutive sprouts swelled flawlessly
Torrents of blooms flooded the landscape
Healthy, procreative plants triumphed
Left to their own, as in the wild
They would surely have offspring
Today, I was there to make certain
Dozens of labeled bags, rolled up in my pocket
I went out to begin my miniature harvest
Dried petunia pods between their blossoming brethren
Punctuated the cascading purple statements
Plucked and squeezed between thumb and forefinger
A mist of miniscule seeds peppered the inside of the bag
One after another, filling the bottom like an hourglass
Moving to marigolds, the midafternoon sun
Bathed me in warmth, inside and out
Cloudbursts of ladybugs, equally inspired by the heat
Played dodge ball with my face
I twisted the dried up, brown remnants off of the stem
Peeled back the thin husk, and liberated more seeds
Like tiny exclamation points, they quickly filled the bag
One bag for orange, another for yellow, another for white
They all look exactly the same
But they know what to become
Zinnias, snapdragons, nicotiana, salvia
And more, each in multiple colors
Filled their respective bags
In less than three hours, thousands of seeds were banked
The barking squirrel in the old oak tree
Was happy to see me go inside
So he could come down and collect his prizes too
In the bottom left drawer of the refrigerator
Next to the questionable carton of cottage cheese
The bags of beginnings are now hibernating

Kelly Kurt

Bail Something (Limerick)

Corporate welfare, business model; fraud
Oligarchy, the system is flawed
Bail out the greedy banks?
Screw the public; no thanks
I'd rather have my testicles clawed

Kelly Kurt

Balloon

Sitting on a rough, log bench
Alongside my empty pond
Watching the cattails slowly sway
While the shade of morning
Still swathed my eyes from glare
I glimpsed a motion in the sky
One hundred feet away
At rooftop height
A reflective Mylar balloon approached
A short, red ribbon dangled beneath
As it neared, it descended
Randomly, slowly, but purposefully
Partially deflated, it was concave on one side
At fifty feet, it was at head level
Starting to pirouette as it stalled
Teasing me
With eyes of a child, I gaped
As a gentle breeze sent it closer
I called to it, as if it could hear
Startlingly, it heeded and landed in my lap
The back side was like a mirror
Distorting my reflection with its wrinkles
On the front, in large, bright yellow letters
Was the word; SMILE

Kelly Kurt

Balls (Senryu Series)

Soccer

A football to most
Icosahedron pattern
Keep your hands off it

Baseball

Cork at the center
Raised stitching effects motion
Can be worth millions

Football

Prolated spheroid
'Pigskin' in vernacular
Seldom touches feet

Tennis

Commonly yellow
Felt covered hollow rubber
Packaged like Pringles

Golf

Hundreds of dimples
Spherically symmetrical
Hail comparative

Beach

Swimsuit photo prop
Outsized, colorful panels
Concert bounce around

Billiard

Rack `em up and shoot

Fifteen different colors
Don't get behind eight

Bowling

Drilled holes for fingers
Hard polyurethane shell
Don't drop on your toes

Lucille

Married to Desi
Red headed comedienne
Did you love Lucy?

Kelly Kurt

Bar Fight

Alcohol was involved
No more than immaturity
A perceived affront
Words
If peers, especially females
Were not present
It may have been avoided
Voices got louder
Statements more inane
Ridiculous threats
Initial shove
Flailing extremities
Some gathered 'round to gawk
Some couldn't care less
Quickly over
On the floor
Pulled apart
Made to leave
Brief chatter about the event ensued
Five minutes later, all was as before
Pointless interruption

Kelly Kurt

Barbequed Ribs (Haiku)

Five portions of pig
Disappeared before my eyes
Stained fingers remain

Kelly Kurt

Baseline

Outlook through life is run within a template
The fundamental operating platform preprogrammed
Installed, indoctrinated from your first breath
Myth and the supernatural; prejudice and fear
Preset views, used to make daily decisions
A spreadsheet application used to write a novel
Exploring reality with kaleidoscope glasses
Critical and independent thought handcuffed

Kelly Kurt

Bathroom (Senryu Series)

Toilet

Disposes of waste
Diverse forms around the world
Put seat down when done

Sink

Ceramic basin
Hand and face washing station
Rinse out your whiskers

Medicine Cabinet

Storage for sundries
Often behind a mirror
Nosy guests will peek

Bathtub

Concave Container
Relaxing with warm water
Keep baby when drained

Shower

Overhead sprinkler
More efficient than a soak
April's bring flowers

Towels

Dry off skin and hair
Couples mark theirs, his and hers
Thrown in when quitting

Loofa

Natural Gourd sponge

Gently exfoliates skin
Sound of belly punch?

Plunger

Rubber suction cup
Nicknamed the plumber's helper
Used to clear log jams

Kelly Kurt

Bats At Sunset

Too dimly lit to see the bugs that assailed me
I watched as the bantam bats chaotically fed
Right angle turns made with such abruptness and control
They winged within inches of my pivoting head
These airborne mice consume thousands of insects each night
Returning to their hideouts before the next dawn
Although reviled by most as bloodsucking vermin
We'd be swamped by mosquitos if they were all gone
In cities, throughout suburbs, and bucolic farmlands
As the sun offers its goodnight hopes to the west
Cast off your unwarranted fears and prejudices
And watch these marvels of life do what they do best

Kelly Kurt

Beach (Senryu Series)

Bikini

Two piece bathing suit
You'll get no complaints from me
Exploding atoll

Crabs

Pincerred crustaceans
Pubic region parasites
Old men with sunburns

Frisbee

Trademarked plastic disk
Mistaken for UFOs
Started as cake pan

Seagulls

Noisy denizens
Unscrupulous scavengers
A flock makes music

Jellyfish

Not really a fish
Gelatinous umbrellas
Don't pee on my sting

Lifeguard

Perched in a tower
Sexy seaside rescuers
Zinc covered noses

Palm Trees

Symbolize triumph

Have no annual growth rings
Do they have fingers?

Sandcastles

Coastline construction
Natural prey of the tide
Queen ant's residence?

Shells

Invertebrate home
Natives used as currency
I hear the ocean!

Sunburn

Overexposure
Leading cause of skin tumors
Your mom was a dwarf?

Tide

Time's patient partner
Moon's gravitational tug
Laundry detergent

Kelly Kurt

Beard

Left to grow for three weeks now
A short mat of mostly grey
Winter insulation
Starting to itch

Kelly Kurt

Beauty (Tanka)

Grace and symmetry
Culturally subjective
Instinctive response
Inherent in tangible
Impalpably recognized

Kelly Kurt

Bed (Senryu)

Horizontal plane
As comforting as any place else
I'm heading there now

Kelly Kurt

Bedbugs

The sun has set; time to tuck in the kids
A kiss on the cheek and a story
Now comes the part, as you walk out the room
When you let them know they are quarry
"Goodnight" you say, with dramatic pause
"Sleep tight", the comforting next words
"Don't let the bedbugs bite" ensues
Oh how they long for the two thirds
The portion of day when they don't lie in bed
And worry about being bitten
By grotesque parasites that live in their sheets
And with human blood are smitten
Little do they know, that these insects are clever
And also go out in the day
So sleep tight if you can but don't forget
You're their 24 hour buffet

Kelly Kurt

Beetle On My Floor

Living in a basement
Many insects share my room
Most are benign and secretive
Hiding in corners, lodging neath furniture
Occasionally making a mad scramble
Across the no man's land of the open floor
Bolting to the nearest shadowy sanctuary
But tonight, an exceptionally sizeable beetle
Lumbered languidly hither and thither
As if drunk and blind, or apathetic
Encountering a cast-off shoe or extension cord
It would stop, perplexed it seemed
Before circumnavigating the obstacle
Wobbling right up to my stockinged foot
Which when wiggled, caused little consternation
The tiny tank on six legs simply moseyed to port
Continuing its haphazard excursion
I could have watched its antics all night
More entertaining than anything on TV
But it eventually clambered under my door
Presumably to erratically explore the rest of the basement
I look forward to another visit

Kelly Kurt

Before The Words

The beauty is fundamentally there
In different forms and levels of perception
The rarity of an orchid
The intricacy of a web
The concept of devotion
Even the splatter of a bug on a windshield

The emotions emerge, raw and vital
Stirring in depth the heart
Rousing an essence of humanity
Compassion
Wonder

Thoughts, reflections and inspiration
Course like stampeding wild mustangs
Forming impressions, outlines, then details
The pen is held over pristine paper
Anxious
Sure

All this and ineffably more
Before the words are written

Kelly Kurt

Before Their Time

An overcast morning, as still as my foggy mind
Decorated by the leaves coming to a peak
Whispered that this fleeting glory
Once every elliptical orbit
Was to be abridged

By coffee's end, the skies were clearing
Swept out, it seemed, by the north wind
Howling in contempt of warm air
The once meagerly leaf dappled terrain
Chaotically rustled with detached thousands
Eddying, streaming, screaming
Many were crunchy brown corpses
But many were also painted ladies
Forced from their hospice before their time
Some still cleaving to middle-aged green
None were immune
Schools of petite orange sumac leaves
Romped around oversized catalpas
Like minnows teasing a flounder
Pine needles, yellowed by a dry spell
And loosened by an early October chill
Overspread an earlier blanket

Across the yet emerald lawns
The sound was slightly softened
But in the streets, the stampedes resounded
Passing cars swirled the pandemonium
Launching trees-full back up to fall again
Corners and crannies collected the carnage

Sunset ushered in rolling, low clouds
Darkness fell abruptly as the gusts persisted
Leaving wooden giants in a state of undress
Limbs still flailing, but unable to conceal their indignity
Deciduous scaffolds

First frost had yet to fall
Pumpkins, still awaited their fate

Nonetheless, a premature diminishment
Fall's blushes blown away too soon

Kelly Kurt

Beginnings (Limerick)

Yes, please be all that you want to be
Fly above, open minded and free
You must learn how to walk
And then soar like a hawk
Seek the sky, but don't forget the tree

Kelly Kurt

Being

Like a circle, with its center everywhere
And its circumference nowhere
The universe of you, is potential
Synchronous with love
Exclusive, irreplaceable, essential to the whole
Eternal

Kelly Kurt

Beliefs

My mid-section was bludgeoned
Ego, beaten to a new low
I arose to face myself
My most strident adversary
Low on ammunition, I defended
The facts were there
I should not have had to argue
How can this not be clear?
I had once contended, converse to my current views
Ignorance is not a defect
Acceptance, not a given
Struggle is common
Acknowledging factual evidence, contrary to belief
Awakening
Do I know?
Can I prove?
Only if archetypes are seen as they are
Ingrained templates
Subconscious convictions
Difficult to deny
Uncomfortable at best
Does it matter?
Maybe only to me
Maybe only to me

Kelly Kurt

Bell Tower

Fifty feet above the entrance
Perched atop a paneled cube
The eight sided belfry rests
Arched, paneless windows, louvered to liberate the knell
The lofty steeple, long departed
Blown down ages ago in a tempest

□

Up two flights of spiral staircases to the loft
A twelve foot ladder climbs to the attic
Another ladder rises to the apex
Where yet another, smaller, rickety ladder ascends
Through a small, square portal
Directly below the massive church bell

Squeezing underneath is acrobatic
Getting to your feet is strenuous
Not much room to maneuver
Around the one ton, brass bell
Ropes and pulleys add to the effort
Few have made it this far

On one window ledge
An incised set of initials, dated 1887
The story goes, the bell was first rung
To announce Lincoln's election
One score and seven years before that
This space is a time machine

Edging around the patinated bell
Massive timbers frame the headstock
Hardwood pegs secure the joints
The louvered west window is hinged
Swinging it open reveals a view
Across the spine of the church and 632 seasons

Kelly Kurt

Beneath

Beneath the surface
All is beneath the surface
The stark desert of the ocean's surface
Hides its range of fauna and flora
The alabaster fields of a northern winter
'Tho beautiful in their own right
Conceal promising springtime blooms
What lies beneath the surface of man?
All!
Few open up, few expose, few reveal what lies beneath
What is seen, what is known is what is allowed
The innocence of children is transparent
No shame or gratuitous pride
No need to obscure or hold back
Open, honest, sincere
Why then the wall we build as we age?
The ocean cannot reveal its hidden bounty from above
The springtime flowers can't flaunt their beauty
From beneath their shimmering blanket
Why purposely hide your bounty and beauty?
Let all see
Let shine what lies beneath

Kelly Kurt

Bernie Made Off (Limerick)

Investing for days that aren't sunny
End game; the land of milk and honey
Their dreams turned into dust
A big mistake to trust
Bernie Madoff with all their money

Kelly Kurt

Betrayal

Treachery

To be betrayed, one must first trust

To trust, one must first know

To know, it seems, is impossible

Kelly Kurt

Better Late Than... (Limerick)

Being early is one of life's keys
But for rodents, it's not the bee's knees
The first mouse gets the snap
And gets killed in the trap
But the second mouse gets all the cheese

Kelly Kurt

Bicycle Parts (Senryu Series)

Handlebars

Steering contrivance
Ten year old's non sequitur
Gear shift location

Pedals

Propulsion platform
Levered force multiplier
Both a verb and noun

Seat

Wedgie for riders
Marquis de Sade approved
Neutering option

Spokes

Lightweight rim support
Playing card engine sound cause
Disappear at speed

Chain

Where pant cuffs get caught
Tension is necessary
Weakest link setting

Tires

Go flat at worst time
Where the rubber meets the road
Two are sufficient

Kelly Kurt

Big (Senryu Series)

Astronomical

Billions of light years
Unfathomable distance
As big as it gets

Colossal

Like statue at Rhodes
Very impressive blunder
Exceedingly large

Epic

Large scale production
Legendary poetry
Worst kind of failure

Fat

Adipose tissue
Profitable contract type
Chewed when conversing

Giant

Oversized human
Larger than life notable
Jolly green spokesman

Infinite

Interminable
Epistemological
A mother's patience

Jumbo

Barnum's elephant

An oxymoronic shrimp
Largest size of eggs

King-Sized

California bed
His majesty's measurements
Scope of a headache

Mammoth

Extinct pachyderm
Longest cave on the planet
Jefferson's cheese wheel

Prodigious

Copious amount
Extraordinary talent
Fat man's appetite

Titanic

Cronus describer
Containing titanium
Iceberg attracter

Super

Enormous market
High-rise manager nickname
Fast-food size option

Kelly Kurt

Big Bang (Tanka)

Before makes no sense
An infinite density
Singularity
Inflated to all we see
Creating both time and space

Kelly Kurt

Big Shorty (Limerick)

At only seven feet and a half
Big shorty was a tiny giraffe
Tho he let it be known
That he was fully grown
Disrespectful young meerkats would laugh

Kelly Kurt

Bills (Senryu Series)

Rent

Roof over your head
Paying mortgage for owner
La Bohème based play

Electricity

Fundamental force
Turn the lights off when you leave
Charges for a charge

Gas

Oven energy
Fossil fuel for furnace
Baked bean byproduct

Water

Can't live without it
More than half of our bodies
Hot when in trouble

Insurance

Home, health and auto
Coverage for catastrophe
Mobster's extortion

Student Debt

Life-long encumbrance
National embarrassment
Live in mom's basement

Health Care

Exorbitant costs

Leading cause of bankruptcies
Like pulling a tooth

Phone

Seldom used to call
Don't exceed data limit
Selfie contrivance

Kelly Kurt

Biomes (Senryu Series)

Desert

Arid, barren tract
Desolated wilderness
Main mirage milieu

Rainforest

Jewels of the Earth
More than half of all life forms
Dwindling daily

City

Encroached wilderness
Sprawling human settlement
Urban heat island

Coral Reef

Calcium condos
Plankton partaking polyps
Endangered by greed

Cave

Hollow underground
Eyeless, albino faunae
Modern man's retreat

Savanna

Highly treed grassland
Seasonal water changes
Serengeti hordes

Tundra

Frigid, treeless tract

Permafrost predominates
Climate change threatens

Kelly Kurt

Birds (Senryu Series)

Eagle

Powerful raptor
Chosen over the turkey
Two under par score

Vulture

Feast on carrion
Circle corpses in westerns
Bankers and lawyers

Canary

Bright shade of yellow
Islands south of Morocco
Tests air in coal mines

Robin

Harbinger of spring
Red breasted thrush group song bird
Mister Hood's first name

Duck

Web footed flier
Pate de Foie Gras victim
Watch your head fella

Hummingbird

Nectar consumer
Hovering gem blushed flash
Doesn't know lyrics

Peacock

Flashy tailed showoff

An allegory for pride
NBC icon

Penguin

Antarctic seabird
Flightless tuxedo wearer
Batman's enemy

Ostrich

Largest living bird
Two toed African runner
The other red meat

Kelly Kurt

Birth Defect (Limerick)

As we age, our bodies become worn
A disorder leaving all forlorn
Despite treatments we try
We ultimately die
Of complications from being born

Kelly Kurt

Birthday (Senryu Series)

Age

It's just a number
Tho it never gets smaller
Improves a fine wine

Cake

Did someone say cake?
Butter makes batter better
Not from urinal

Party

Requires at least two
Guest of honor should be there
Don't be a pooper

Card

Sentimental tripe
I hope there's money inside
Headed for landfill

Celebrate

Good enough reason
You made it another year
Don't overdo it

Gifts

Tokens of esteem
Expertly wrapped, or in bags
Include the receipt

Candles

Flaming cylinders

Make a wish before blowing
I wished I was young

Kelly Kurt

Birthday Thoughts

Anniversary of your first breath of air
But how old are you really?
The tallying traditionally starts at birth
Would conception work more ideally?
The genes that constitute your being
Have been passed down for generations
And the atoms that make up those genes
Were spawned at the cosmos' creation.
So thirteen point seven two billion
Seems a valid chronological age
But the energy used to create the big bang
Can't be explained by Lagrangian gauge
Maybe your birthday should mark the time
Of your first self-awareness
Giving importance to sentience seems
To be critical, in all fairness
In any case, today is your day
And you have more than earned your due
In honor of the conventional mode
I wish a happy birthday to you

Kelly Kurt

Bituminous Exfoliation (Limerick)

If caught in a tar pit disaster
Opt for a cleanup that is faster
If it's stuck to your face
I suggest you replace
You're showerhead with a sandblaster

Kelly Kurt

Black Lives Matter!

What year is this anyway? !
How can men still think
Let alone behave like this?
Wasn't it the "self-evidence" of equality among men
That gave birth to this nation?
Aren't there innumerable contributions by our black brothers
That benefit and bring joy to all?
How much suffering has been allayed by Percy Julian's cortisone?
Or lives saved by blood banks, thanks to Charles Drew?
Who hasn't been moved by the words of Maya Angelou?
Or had his heart changed by the dedication of Dr. King?
We have been delighted by the voice of Lena Horne
Inspired by the success of Oprah
Cheered Michael Jordan and Hank Aaron
Mandela, Tutu, Annan, Owens, Parks
Obama
Yet in 2015, men are still judged by their skin color
Black lives matter!
All lives matter!
Hearts and minds must change!
Now!

Kelly Kurt

Black Widow

Late January was at its glacial crest
Outdoor life was inert
But here, in my basement domicile
Creepy-crawlies were spared
Suspended like a jeweled pendant
On the face of a cabinet
A black widow spider
Dark as Malevolence
A bloodshot hourglass embellishing its nether
I placed it in a salvaged jar
Blanketed with old ficus leaves
The cap, perforated
At first, I would find ants to feed it
Then small flies would be its repast
In days, it spun a network of webs
A cocoon of sorts where it could lodge
I spied on it daily, with a magnifying glass
Observing its intricacies and behaviors
Showing it to the occasional visitor
Who would either react with fear and disgust
Or genuine interest and curiosity
I considered naming it
But thought better of becoming so attached
As the weeks passed, it seemed to grow accustomed
To its glass menagerie
Perhaps that was just my naïve hope
In May, as the weather started to soften
I thought about releasing it outside
Selfishly, I convinced myself it was still too cold
And kept it on the counter for my diversion
Capturing flying insects to feed it
In a supposed act of benevolence
The morning of June, twelfth
I discovered my black widow; dead
Almost comically curled up, upside-down
The jar, a maze of filaments
I took my black widow, jar and all
Out to the shade garden
And like a nine year old, saying goodbye to a hamster

Interred it next to large, variegated hosta
I did not cry, but I felt ashamed
Today, writing this
I cried

Kelly Kurt

Blessed Are The Bees (Limerick)

Honey makers need some latitude
Try showing a little gratitude
Don't be shocked if you're stung
If their praises aren't sung
You just might get some bee attitude

Kelly Kurt

Blind Rage (Limerick)

He's truly an abysmal feller
A life form best kept in a cellar
I'd slug him, wouldn't you
As he's determined to
Play hide and seek with Helen Keller

Kelly Kurt

Blind Sight

Ego meets, interacts and lives visually
The sighted, experience their world
Their selves
Through open eyes
All reality seems external
Outside the self
Closed eyes open consciousness
Isolate to the ultimate degree
Alone
With yourself
Darkened silence awakens the inner voice
If you listen, it is the subjective identity
A narration with no agenda
An opportunity to meet the real you

Kelly Kurt

Bliss

Comfortable

Waves

Preferred state, annoying facts

I think I understand

I cannot define the term

Does thought define the expression?

I thought it was my ally

Ignorance was paradise

Heaven denied

What now?

Kelly Kurt

Blistering Vichyssoise (Limerick)

Payback's a bitch, or so I've been told
Despite forgiveness being extolled
Why's it more apt than not
To be doled out when hot
If revenge is a dish best served cold

Kelly Kurt

Blisters (Senryu)

Toes of shoes Taper
Feet do just the opposite
Rubs me the wrong way

Kelly Kurt

Blood

Cherry running suspension
Surging through highways of life
Furnishing components of biology
With nutrients to survive
Azure afore oxygenation
Gushing through the heart
Iron rich, vampire fuel
Drunken ala carte
Created in the marrow
Purified by the liver
Providing cells with nutrients
Further down the river
Skin your knee and you will find
A river flowing red
Lose forty percent, or more
And you will wind up dead

Kelly Kurt

Blue (Haiku)

Blue's not a color
It is a category
Of sky potential

Kelly Kurt

Blue Curtains

The mid-August heat wave has abated
A cold front overnight brought much needed rain
Today is twenty-five degrees cooler, with a driving wind
Blue curtains, flailing in my window
Joyfully welcome the precocious taste of autumn

Kelly Kurt

Blue Monday (Limerick)

Thanksgiving weekend has concluded
Some plates with cranberries (reputed)
Leftovers all over
Lightheaded but sober
Uncle Henry clearly excluded

Kelly Kurt

Blue Sky (Haiku)

More than metaphor
Thin veil of rare atmosphere
Beyond it, all black

Kelly Kurt

Board Games (Senryu Series)

Monopoly

Buy and develop
Force foes into bankruptcy
Unbearably long

Life

Milton Bradley's first
Low tech version of 'The Sims'
Not a game for most

Chess

Checkmate is the goal
Invented in India
I'd lose to an ape

Battleship

More than sink or swim
Pattern recognition test
Armored war vessel

Trivial Pursuit

General knowledge
Spirited, party fixture
Average person's life

Candy Land

Follow directions
Reach Candy Castle to win
Then go to dentist

Twister

Contortionism

More pleasant when played coed
Cyclone synonym

Scrabble

Intellectual
Test of vocabulary
Hey, that's not a word!

Kelly Kurt

Bodily Fluids (Senryu Series)

Blood

Boils when indignant

Similar to seawater

Oxygen transport

Sweat

Diaphoresis

Labor's liquid assertion

Not for the small stuff

Tears

Lacrimal liquor

Emotional expulsive

Crocodile claptrap

Bile

Acute bitterness

Not so humorous humor

Emulsifies fat

Saliva

Start of digestion

Grandma's cheek smudge solution

Sign of Pavlov's success

Breast milk

Mammary gland role

La Leche League promotion

Stains mother's best blouse

Lymph

Muscle movement pumps

Interstitial recycler
Filtrated in nodes

Urine

Six-pack byproduct
Not as sterile as once thought
Plant fertilizer

Semen

One teaspoon per shot
Energy source for sperm cells
Black-light detection

Kelly Kurt

Boko Who?

No strategic importance
No resources in demand
Dark skinned, unfamiliar
Terror in Nigeria
Remote, overlooked, unimportant
No press coverage for these innocents
No outrage
No solidarity or ceremonies
Women, children burned alive
No threat to the west
No response
Shame
Mother continent forsaken
Shame

Kelly Kurt

Bones (Senryu Series)

Humerus

Shoulder to elbow
Easily dislocated
Not funny when cracked

Phalanges

Foot and hand digits
Fifty-six all together
Old troop formations

Femur

Upper part of leg
Longest bone in the body
Knee-hip connection

Ribs

Organ protection
Barbecued baby back bits
Pulls somebody's leg

Vertebrae

Twenty-four in humans
Sacrum and coccyx are fused
Form spinal column

Hyoid

Shaped like a horseshoe
Has no articulation
Aids in swallowing

Ossicles

Small, inner ear bones

Malleus, Incus and Stapes
Transmit vibrations

Patella

A sesamoid bone
Increases tendon power
Protects the knee joint

Kelly Kurt

Bottom Feeder Limerick

There once was a national leader
Who was a liar and a cheater
Seems they're all the same
Two steps down from lame
And one rung below bottom feeder

Kelly Kurt

Bottom Line (Limerick)

Reaching around from the back to wipe
Pulling from front to rear with a swipe
But my shoulder's too tight
So I can't do it 'right'
And I clean in reverse, what's the hype?

Kelly Kurt

Bowling (Senryu Series)

Pocket

The sweet spot to hit
A strike is all but assured
All T-shirts need one

Strike

Ten pins with one roll
Followed by a silly dance
Then marked with an X

Gutter Ball

How embarrassing
Upper limit is twenty
For a perfect score

Turkey

Three strikes in a row
Tom throws more on Thanksgiving
Wattle he do next?

Spare

Ten in two attempts
Hooray for second chances
No such luck in life

Pins

Maplewood targets
Laterally symmetric
Have their ups and downs

Hook

Curving concavely

Strike pocket at an angle
Or miss completely

Split

Hard spare to pick up
Seven-ten is dubious
Act like banana

Kelly Kurt

Brainstorm

Creativity is a raging tempest
A hundred billion neurons
Each with thousands of synaptic connections
Voltage gradients conduct electrical impulses
Flickering like tongued lightning
Each flash building upon the preceding
Developing stronger networks
Cloudbursts of neurotransmitters
Dopamine, adrenaline, serotonin, glutamate
Rain down on receptors in dendrites
Opening ion channels exciting further fulguration
Thunderous, wondrous, miraculous awareness
Intellect, emotion, mind spawned in brain
Quantum computing
Sensory processing
Memory storing
Thought creating
Brainstorm

Kelly Kurt

Breeze (Tanka)

Steamy summer day
Oppressive heat throttles
Placid puff of wind
Unnerves quiescent oak leaves
Briefly abating torment

Kelly Kurt

Brick Lane

Cobbled, maple lined Road, shadowed in leaves and time
Staggered, ruddy blocks remember halcyon days
Wooden wagon wheels, unhurriedly rattling along
Rhythmically heralding their passage

Corners now chipped, faces weathered and worn
Weeds growing in cracks assuage the clatter
Rubber tires hum a different refrain
But the chorus remains the same

Kelly Kurt

Brief Encounter (Limerick)

When asked what you're eating under there
I caution easy marks to beware
It's just a suggestion
But if asked that question
I would not reply with; under where?

Kelly Kurt

British Petroleum Is Coming (Limerick)

From these conclusions we cannot flee
Oil spill cleanups exact a high fee
The line drawn in the sand
If it costs one by land
It costs one and all if it's by sea

Kelly Kurt

Bud Not Wiser (Limerick)

With every round, Bud became bolder
The opposite of a cold shoulder
At deformed girls he'd wink
Prettier with each drink
Beauty in eyes of the beer holder

Kelly Kurt

Bug Off (Haiku)

Early March heatwave
Four month absence of insects
Suddenly over

Kelly Kurt

Buggin' Me (Limerick)

Loud clicking sounds I wanted to rid
More annoying than my neighbor's kid
Drove me batty of course
'Cause I knew not the source
Tho a large insect named Katy did

Kelly Kurt

Buildings (Senryu Series)

Bowling Alley

Good place to strike out
Another spot to drink beer
Full of wild turkeys

Church

Once weekly visit
Antiquated edifice
Adorned with crosses

Fire Station

Dalmatian hangout
Grade school field trip location
Five alarm chili

Hospital

Tender loving care
Seems people go there to die
Lots are General

Prison

Throw away the key
Big American business
Where the bad get worse

Museum

Exhibition hall
Science, history and art
Old fogey's attic

School

Social education

Nine month respite for parents
Hangout for fishes

Supermarket

Nourishment warehouse
No need to produce your own
Where Clark Kent food shops

Skyscraper

Seen from miles away
Marvel of engineering
Big city showpiece

Kelly Kurt

Bumblebee

Airborne fuzzy jellybean
Garnishing summer's flowers
Tiger striped and flimsy winged
Engaged all daylight hours
Spending minutes at a time
Or performing touch and goes
Less poetry in motion
More like polyphonic prose
Single-minded on its task
A socialist, like Stalin
Gathers nectar for the hive
Whilst allocating pollen
When autumn's days turn too cold
For this unlikely flier
Underground to hibernate
Til next spring's sun climbs higher

Kelly Kurt

Bunny (Tanka)

Hiding in Hostas
Erect ears on full alert
Instinctively still
Panicky heart pulsating
Sympathetic leaves tremble

Kelly Kurt

Burdened Paper

Take all your stress and worries
All your problems and torment
The weight that vexes your soul
The frustration that is pent
And put them down in writing
With a heavy coat of ink
Shift your burden onto paper
It's much cheaper than a shrink

Kelly Kurt

But

The one word in the English language
That negates all that's been said before it
Turns reasons into poor excuses
Annuls the most candid compliment
Invalidates a seemingly sincere promise
Abrogates even a simple statement

I wanted to write a better poem than this...
But

Kelly Kurt

But (2)

You like the status quo...
You think there is a god...
You want a peaceful world...
You plan to do your part...
You like her personality...
You love your fellow man...
You could be something more...
You say all manner of things
But
Once invoked
All prior is negated

Kelly Kurt

Butterfly Dance

I could hear the music that wasn't playing
As I watched the butterflies dance
A frenzied fugue infused the sweet-smelling air
While I chaperoned their romance
A synchronous and turbulent pas de deux
Golden wings a feverish blur
She conducted him on a byzantine quest
And he dutifully shadowed her
The wind fetched them away from their rendezvous
As the blushing sun set in the west
Nightingales serenaded them tenderly
Their coupling properly blessed

Kelly Kurt

Butterfly Kisses

From my left side, I see her approach
She doesn't think I notice
But I know what's going to happen
I turn slightly to the right
And gaze at an imaginary something
A warm, soft nose nuzzles my cheek
Pressing harder and harder to close the distance
A five year old's giggle sneaks out
Before ridiculously long lashes
Beat like butterfly wings
And tickle my face and heart

Kelly Kurt

Cable Tv (Senryu Series)

Discovery

Reality shows

Commercialism killed it

They still have "Shark Week"

Fox News Network

An embarrassment

Far right wing propaganda

Elderly audience

HBO

Premium channel

Twenty-four/seven movies

You supply popcorn

Lifetime

Geared toward women

Insidious tear jerk movies

Parodies itself

Syfy

Rebranded network

Science fiction took back seat

The spelling makes clear

History

Another sellout

Scripted reality trash

A thing of the past

HGTV

Home improvement tips

Renovation and design
Flipping properties

MTV

Where'd the music go?
VJ sounds provocative
Maybe I'm too old

ESPN

Episodes record
Overexcited anchors
Armchair quarterbacks

Kelly Kurt

Calculated Risk

Why?

The reasons are unknown

When?

Sooner than you think

Later than will matter

Who?

Don't ask, you may not want to know

I asked

They were right

Kelly Kurt

Camping (Senryu Series)

Tent

Canvas covering

Temporary residence

Insect repellent

Fire Pit

Marshmallow cooker

Wild animal deterrent

Smoky Bear's concern

Woods

Workshop of nature

Sunset alters ambience

Where bears take their dumps

Sleeping Bags

Nocturnal cocoon

Hypothermia hindrance

Old wives slumbering?

Lantern

Gas and electric

Extends exploitable hours

It's Jack O's surname

Sing-alongs

Late night endeavor

Guitar accompaniment

Too drunk to worry

Cooler

Never enough ice

Insulated rectangle
Make room for the beer

Kelly Kurt

Candy (Senryu Series)

Lollipops

Candy on a stick
Make sure to get your licks in
Tongue exerciser

M&Ms

Colorful candies
Melt in your mouth, not your hands
They came here from Mars

Licorice

Chewy confection
Molasses gives its color
Hardly liquor ish

Gummy Bears

Fruity gelatin
Now used to make vitamins
Hunt with gummy guns?

Tootsie Rolls

First penny candy
International delight
Looks the same pooped out

Peeps

Marshmallow madness
Easter basket tradition
Not one out of you!

Pez

Shaped like tiny bricks

Collectible dispensers
Spanish word for fish

Jelly Beans

Fruit flavored gumdrops
Ronald Reagan's beloved treat
Boxer's post-fight head?

Kelly Kurt

Cannabis (Tanka)

Safer than vodka

Natural medication

Untold benefits

Tobacco's friendly cousin

Gratuitous prejudgment

Kelly Kurt

Canyon (Haiku)

Yawning, jagged scar
Engraved by water and time
Soon smoothed by the same

Kelly Kurt

Carbon/Silicon (Haiku)

Carbon is our life
What a dirty element
Silicon seems neat

Kelly Kurt

Card Games (Senryu Series)

Poker

□

Make best five card hand

Psychological warfare

I hardly know `er

Blackjack

Card counters have edge

Come closest to twenty-one

Good name for pirate

Solitaire

A game played by one

Popular on computers

Large, single gemstone

Gin Rummy

Strategic sequence

Get rid of all your deadwood

Skid row booze addict

Hearts

Game of evasion

Dodge or take the entire suit

Symbolic Passions

War

Win all of the cards

Victory based on pure luck

All lose in true life

Bridge

Two pairs of players

Structure spanning obstacles

Stringed instrument part

Crazy Eights

Standard deck is used

Discard until your hand's gone

Section eight discharge

Kelly Kurt

Cardinal

April had yet to put on its variegated pageant
Grass still bronzed and shrubs not yet stirring
Flashing tail all that gives squirrel away
In this landscape of monotone drab
Sapphire skies fanned soothing breezes
But carried no flowered fragrance
Midday sun embraced my winter paled skin

As I melted into the silence
A penetrating staccato song from on high
Requested my immediate attention
Like a forgotten ornament of Christmas past
On the uppermost bough of a bare crabapple tree
Brilliant scarlet and magnificent
A cardinal courted me

Kelly Kurt

Carnival

Small town, Main Street, mid-summer
Early morning sun casts oblong shadows
Of Iron skeletons and canvas structures
Spreading west across the once familiar boulevard

Sideshowes vacantly await impending pandemonium
As the sultry day evolves to twilight
The midway bristles with enthusiasm

Enchanted children's smiles and laughter
Echo along with the calliope's jubilation
Young lovers, exchange glances and kisses
Oblivious to the spectacle surrounding them

Twisting, turning, boisterous rides
Challenge Bellies full of cotton candy and soda
Flamboyant, flashing lights mock the stars

Tireless overnight activities are thorough
Main Street's morning is once again uncluttered
The carnival has moved on

Kelly Kurt

Carnival (Senryu Series)

Clowns

Colorful buffoons
Often more sad than funny
My grade-school function

Cotton Candy

Threads of spun sugar
Sickeningly sweet and sticky
Boll weevil dessert?

Ferris Wheel

Great place for first kiss
Put together by carnies
I can see my house

Fun House

Hold your lady tight
That mirror makes me look fat
Oh yeah, I am fat

Sideshow

Offbeat attraction
Collection of oddities
Story of my life

Merry-Go-Round

Up and down horses
Also called a carousel
Part of the rat race

Games

Three tries for a buck

Impress your girl, or fall flat
I won a Kewpie

Kelly Kurt

Carnivore (Tanka)

Flesh rending canines
Tear pure protein from dead bone
Nourishing the beast
Ravenous appetite rules
Friday night at the steakhouse

Kelly Kurt

Causality

Free will's opponent
Philosopher's bane
What caused the first cause
Will drive one insane

Determine all motions
Forecast the forthcoming
With precision now state
The whole thing's mind-numbing

Can causality hold
With ethereal mind
Where the Newtonian
Models were deftly confined

Kelly Kurt

Cause And Effect

If hindsight is 20/20
Why not do it first
Dissect the prospective outcomes
Discard all the worst
Information in abundance
At your fingertips
No senseless actions taken
No slurs from your lips
Pre-mortem investigation
Prevents most poor results
Stop acting like little children
And think like adults

Kelly Kurt

Ceaseless Impermanence (Limerick)

Nothing has lasted forever, yet
Tho some may ask; "What about my debt? "
All kidding set aside
It is too hard to hide
The condition may never be met

Kelly Kurt

Celebratory Requiem

My dear friend, Christina, died today
A stronger woman, I've never met
The world seems just a little more grey
I am heartbroken, hollow; and yet
I know it is a much better place
And I have been enriched as a man
For the time she spent gracing this Earth
A thousand years in just one lifespan

Kelly Kurt

Cephalocaudal (Limerick)

A smelly blacksmith down in the vale
Spent half of his career under tail
Unless you like doodoo
It's impetuous to
Reshoe a diarrhetic Clydesdale

Kelly Kurt

Certain Uncertainties

How many trees constitute a forest?
Where, exactly, is nowhere?
When is halfway through eternity?
Why is the letter G in nightmare?
What does it mean when she's silent?
Who is qualified to say?
Are there more questions than we've answers?
Could be that's why I've turned grey

Kelly Kurt

Certainty

Not a safe bet
Wrong all the time
Calculations suggest I am rare
Able to discern, extrapolate
I can't know what I don't know
I know nothing

Kelly Kurt

Changing Mind

The body does not age gracefully
Wrinkles and lines
Grey hair
Nose hair
Ears and belly get bigger
Bones creak
Muscles get weak
Spots appear
Harder to see and hear
But the mind ages more graciously
Experience and knowledge accrue
Wisdom compensates for vulnerability
Understanding recompenses fragility
Forgetfulness can be a blessing too
A changing mind balances the scales
Appreciation, judgement, comprehension
Recognizing when to emancipate tension
I would not trade a sliver of erudition
For a slab of naïve corporeal youth
For one more advantage of a changing mind
Is recognizing truth

Kelly Kurt

Character (Limerick)

If I could have a singular wish
My poor mind would undergo a squish
Which request would I make?
What choice should I take?
Altruistic or purely selfish

Kelly Kurt

Character (Senryu)

Truth is difficult
Evasion, just dishonest
Lies disqualify

Kelly Kurt

Charade

Lift up your rock
See what crawled under
Yours and others'
Slugs, dirt and filth
Did you not see it?
Is it that far secreted?
Faultlessness?
Admit it
You are unmindful
There are none so blind
There may be no god
And we are not divine
Look, see, admit
Unless you are afraid
Boo!

Kelly Kurt

Charity (Senryu)

More wise than caring
An investment in human-kind
Untold dividends

Kelly Kurt

Cheeky (Limerick)

Spanky got the one job he could find
Rear end factory contract was signed
It couldn't be greater
A butt operator
He is running a little behind

Kelly Kurt

Cheese (Senryu Series)

Cheddar

Somerset birthplace
The world's most popular cheese
Improves everything

Mozzarella

Buffalo milk base
Not a pizza without it
Melted gooeyness

Brie

Rind made of white mold
Known as 'the king of cheeses'
Fancy party course

Feta

Great with omelettes
Made with sheep and goat's milk
Homer's favorite

Blue Cheese

Sharp, salty flavor
Same 'foot smell' bacteria
Generic title

Edam

Dutch semi-hard cheese
Bright red paraffin wax rind
With fruit as dessert

Parmesan

Hard and granular

Shaved or grated over food
Perks up any meal

Cream

At least one third fat
Cheesecake's star ingredient
A bagel's best friend

Cottage

Curds, devoid of whey
Replacement for mayonnaise
Dieter's staple

Ricotta

Made from excess whey
Italian, meaning 'recooked'
Lasagna filling

Limburger

Spreadable when ripe
Popular among Germans
Man, who cut the cheese! ?

Swiss

Sweet, nutty essence
Carbon dioxide forms 'eyes'
Neutral in world wars?

Kelly Kurt

Chicken Dance (Limerick)

Like the prancing swells of the ocean
Stimulated by rhythm's potion
I could watch it all day
Graceful rooster ballet
It is truly poultry in motion

Kelly Kurt

Children (Tanka)

Couriers of joy
Innocence personified
Hope for the future
Educating their elders
Irreplaceable treasure

Kelly Kurt

Children Of Summer (Haiku)

Barefoot through tall grass
Shirtless chasers of insects
Children of summer

Kelly Kurt

Chives

Delicious on baked potatoes
And chopped on cottage cheese
Sprinkled in a favorite sauce
The flavor's sure to please
A hardy plant in gardens
I divide them every fall
But cease from taking clippings
From the stems that get too tall
As lovely as their taste may be
I do not want to ruin
The dancing purple powder-puffs
That adorn them every June

Kelly Kurt

Choice

Three days of dark, low clouds
Almost constant rain and strong winds
Involuntarily sequestered
I noticed the difference
Confinement is habitually my choosing
Free from distractions
Exempt from superficiality
I pulled on my navy blue hood
Cinched the drawstring, framing my face
And let the wind driven rain flog me

Kelly Kurt

Choices.

Always at least two

Either or

That may not be much diversity

Still, an alternative

Up to you

A life may permanently transform

The more alternatives

The more confusion

A newly stocked cabinet provides more thought

Kelly Kurt

Chuckle (Senryu)

Diaphragm spasms
Facial muscles flout gravity
Unexpected sounds

Kelly Kurt

Church (Senryu Series)

Choir Loft

Vocal balcony
Elevated sound dais
Chorale's airliner?

Steeple

Pyramidal spire
Appears to puncture the sky
Pursued by horses

Pew

Parallel benches
Uncomfortable seating
What is in a name?

Belfry

Below the steeple
Eighteen-hundred pounds of brass
Tintinnabulate

Pulpit

Platform for speeches
Soapbox for slanted sermons
Jack's flower lodging

Altar

Ritual table
Site of many a marriage
Sacrificial slab

Stained Glass

Window mosaics

Fragile panels heave in wind
Tinting the sunlight

Kelly Kurt

Church Oaks

In my imagination it started with an absent minded 19th century squirrel. At least two, too many acorns to recall, were cached for winter.

A few thin pine trees dotted the old church's grounds then, but the misplaced acorns, only thirty feet apart, claimed their share that spring. So many fates could have befallen the twin oaks as they passed their first years, but the south lawn slowly became shaded. In the blink of the sun's eye (forty – fifty years.) a pair of towering, gnarled guardians looked down upon the stained glass bespectacled, stone and brick church. Generations of worshipers, heads bowed in reverence, passed each week as the giants, whose girth no two could encircle with outstretched arms, looked on.

One day, the last of fifteen decades of parishioners shut the doors for the last time and left the oaks to their watch. They did not watch alone for long. The oaks and their church adopted a caretaker; me.

For years I tended to the loving restoration of the old building and then the beautifying of its grounds. The magnificence of the enormous trees was appreciated but often took a back seat to the fleeting glory of spring and summer's flowers.

Come autumn, the squirrels leap from branch to branch and tree to tree, gathering countless acorns, and as their ancestors did some sixty squirrel generations ago, bury them throughout the yard.

In winter, they are even more grand. Retaining most of their leaves through March, they stand as sixty foot, shadow casting points of contrast against the predominantly white background. On otherwise still, cold December nights, northerly winds rustle the dried leaves, making sounds like thousands of whispering prayers from congregations past.

Spring cleaning, after they finally let go of their old leaves to make room for the new, is not spread out over weeks. For some reason, when they decide it's time, they all come down in just one day. The last trees in the area to bud and sprout new leaves, they are not fully dressed again until almost June.

Last summer, a "super-moon" lit the wee hours of a perfectly clear night. It was so bright that you could find a lost penny in the grass. Through the oaks' branches and leaves, the light dappled the lawn and the large sandstones that form a sinuous path to the patio. The gentle, warm breezes of night made the patterns of light and shadow on the ground dance in harmony with the swaying of the boughs. I never loved the oaks more than I did that night

About fifty feet to the east of the old church oaks, a three year old is now more than two feet tall. Outside of its elders' shadows it gets plenty of light and rain. With luck, it too will one day look after the old church from on high.

Cigarettes (Haiku)

Cylinders of bliss
Begetting fleeting pleasure
Although with a price

Kelly Kurt

Classical Debt

I saw a poem by Keats and read it
Then bought an artifact on credit
If I had money enough to burn
I'd pay off what's owed on a Grecian urn

Kelly Kurt

Close Shave

Nineteen months of growth on top
Seven months below
Practicality finally won out
Some vanity prolonged the process
All or none seemed reasonable
Lop! ☐
Cold on the back of the neck
No more stroking chin philosophy
Seldom seen mirrors reveal differences too
No second thoughts
What was I thinking?
Pragmatism is logical
I knew this previously

Kelly Kurt

Close, But No Cigar (Limerick)

If King Kong were to take a big dump
Such that it fell, forming a huge lump
This stinking pile of crap
When it opened its yap
Would still sound smarter than Donald Trump

Kelly Kurt

Closing Act (Tanka)

The show must go on
A vacant sleep for practice
Rehearsal for death
Memorizing emptiness
For endless repetition

Kelly Kurt

Closure

Resolution of a chapter
Conclusion of a phase
Can any words or actions
Truly purge sorrow's gaze
The word is used too liberally
To ease the mourner's mind
As if all painful memories
Are magically behind
There can only be one closure
Don't tell me otherwise
The only way to lasting peace
Last closure of one's eyes

Kelly Kurt

Clothes (Senryu Series)

Pants

One leg at a time
Beaten off in a sound rout
Worn by decider

Socks

Knitted foot cover
Rock'em robot block punches
Bill Clinton's pussy

Shoes

Protection for feet
Fortunate horses have four
Joe Jackson had none

Underwear

Boxers, briefs, bras
Commandos don't wear any
Location question?

Shirt

Torso covering
Keep it on when impatient
Kind gift off one's back

Tie

Useless neck fabric
Get plastered putting one on
Dull ending to games

Hat

Bald head protection

Cats that wear one mean trouble
Rabbit container

Dress

One piece girl garment
Hemline governed by era
Cover open wounds

Coat

Cold weather comfort
Many minks must pay the price
Thin layer of paint

Kelly Kurt

Cloud (Haiku)

Where do you go now?
The cloud considers this not
And finds its way still

Kelly Kurt

Clouds (Senryu Series)

Cirrus

Lofty wisps of ice
Signal a change in weather
Humorless hazes?

Cirrocumulus

Supercooled water
Described as mackerel sky
Sunset canvases

Cumulus

Latin, meaning pile
Low height convection feedback
I see a bunny

Cumulonimbus

Dense and towering
Tornado progenitor
Convection gone wild

Stratocumulus

Make for gloomy days
Can cause crepuscular rays
Numerous species

Altostratus

Middle-altitude
Signal storm development
Not quite soprano

Altostratus

Bluish-green layer
Often semitransparent
Nebulous structure

Kelly Kurt

Clover (Haiku)

Honeybee's haven
Mid-summer's meadow blanket
Four leaves beget luck

Kelly Kurt

Club Earth

No resources limited to the elite
No borders keeping out, or in
No knowledge reserved for insiders
No membership fees or dues
No contract to sign
All for one
One for all
Exclusively for everybody

Kelly Kurt

Cobwebs (Haiku)

Adorning corners
Diaphanous vestiges
Await cleaning day

Kelly Kurt

Cocktails (Senryu Series)

Manhattan

Whiskey, sweet vermouth
Served with a cherry on top
New York state of mind

Screwdriver

Make mine a double
Vodka, Orange juice, on the rocks
Tighten or loosen

Bloody Mary

Vegetable serving
England's homicidal queen
The hair of the dog

Martini

James Bond's favorite
Olive juice makes it dirty
Dry for a liquid

Margarita

Triple sec and lime
Jose Cuervo tequila
Salt on outer rim

Mai Tai

Polynesian drink
Shaded with an umbrella
Trader Vic's baby

Irish Coffee

Warms me chilly bones

Sugar causes cream to float
Leprechaun's breakfast

Mimosa

You ruined my orange juice
Posh brunch, champagne beverage
Hôtel Ritz potion

Kelly Kurt

Coexistence

I have no personal qualms with any life form
My basement room is shared with lots of bugs
More than I believe most people would be comfortable with
For the most part we just lead our own lives
Crickets will occasionally keep me awake
Various flies taunt me during the warmer months
Spiders, centipedes and beetles mind their own business
Two hours ago, while listening to the football game
A rather chubby mouse darted into the middle of the room
It stopped for a second, looked at me and ran
(I get that a lot)
Into a corner with a small shelving unit holding all my clothes
It had been a year or two since mice have invaded
I just assumed that they found better places to scurry
I remember the effects of their presence though
Pellets on the counters and my wardrobe turned to lint
Mind you, my wardrobe consists of sweatpants and T-shirts
But darn it, they're mine
I grabbed an old fish net in one hand
And moved things aside with the other
The mouse let out a squeak and bolted
I swung the net and missed
Darn!
Or words to that affect
This went on for longer than it should have
Chasing it into other hiding places
Swinging my net
Until it ran under the half inch gap of my door
It could be in any number of places now
It will be back, maybe even with friends
Chewing loudly as I try to sleep
All I want to do is put it outside
But as the weather gets colder
They become smarter than I
I don't think I can beat them (peacefully)
And I don't want to join them
So I'm going to move my clothes to higher ground
And just try to get along

Kelly Kurt

Coffee (Senryu Series)

Black

Straight out of the pot
Unadulterated taste
You know the old joke

Latte

Freshly steamed milk added
Decorated espresso
Considered "elitist";

Espresso

Brewed under pressure
Matrix for fancier drinks
Quick dose of caffeine

Instant

Freeze dried concentrate
Rapid gratification
Simply add water

Cappuccino

Viscous cream topping
Color of Friars' habits
Consumed hot or cold

Irish

Truly a cocktail
Invented in Limerick
Ruins a good whiskey

Decaf

Late night substitute

Orange handled understudy
I mean, what's the point?

Kelly Kurt

Coffee (Tanka)

Caffeinated brew
Ante meridian perk
Hot, cold, instant, fresh
Millions can't start without it
Science waffles. Good or bad?

Kelly Kurt

Cognizant Corporeality

Logic is a rare art form in practice
Acting against it is a form of insanity
I have had long held ways of thinking overturned
But it was instant, painless
I regret the years I lived under mistaken thoughts
Comforting as some were
They were wrong
Reason and reality are uplifting

Kelly Kurt

Coincidence

Thinking of you
I get a call
Did I predict that?
Did I cause that?
I fail to think of the times
When I was thinking of you
And you didn't call

Kelly Kurt

Cold (Senryu)

A slap in the face
Nerve endings are assaulted
The wind aggravates

Kelly Kurt

Collective Legacy (Limerick)

The set was given to me at birth
Seashells of immeasurable worth
Ready for inspection
I keep my collection
Stored on all of the beaches of Earth

Kelly Kurt

Colloquial Comfort

They told me he had passed away
I found glaringly that they lied
He did not leave to anywhere
The reality was he'd died

Kelly Kurt

Collusion

We are purposely kept stupid
Free thought, discouraged, at best
Ignorance, an advantage to the ruling
I escaped
Most do not have a chance
But the potential exists
Simple math elucidates
One percent?
How are they more worthy?
How have they ever been?
By your inaction
Education is imperative
The ruling "class" has nothing on you
No class
No superiority
Just hopes that the multitudes never awake
You have been stirring all along
Rise up
I am one of you

Kelly Kurt

Colors (Senryu Series)

Red

Bulls really don't care
On one end of the spectrum
Sports car's glossy coat

Blue

Musician's sad muse
Doppler shift when approaching
Editor's pencil

White

The sum of all hues
Purity's spotless wardrobe
It is still a lie

Green

Spring's exclamation
Enough can ease one's burden
You ate something bad

Yellow

The coward's back stripe
Banana readiness cue
Proceed with caution

Black

A complete absence
Little dress modifier
Blue's eye sore partner

Kelly Kurt

Comet (Haiku)

Roaming eer etern
Tracing its ellipse alone
The comet weeps ice

Kelly Kurt

Comfort Of Denial

We are willing to believe anything
Proof is never a consideration
When death is inevitable for all
Self-deceit is its own revelation

Fear is as powerful as earthly greed
A motivation as old as mankind
Ignorance may sincerely equal bliss
But I'd still like to give sight to the blind

Kelly Kurt

Commandments 2.0

Thou shalt not kill
That's a no brainer
No lying either
Couldn't be saner
Don't own a being
That's just plain wrong
Help the weak
Especially if you're strong
Stop wasting resources
Some can't be replaced
Think about your actions
Little success comes with haste
Appreciate what you have
Before you yearn for more
Pay it forward when you can
Even up the score
Take in information
As much as you can learn
Share equally amongst yourselves
Let others have a turn
Respect all living things
Especially your brothers
You know right from wrong
Choose right if you have your druthers
Don't take what's not yours
Unless it is given
Cease worshipping myths
And abandon all religion

Kelly Kurt

Commitment (Limerick)

A writer in search of revision
Made a very crucial decision
To be rid of this hex
He swore off of all sex
Expanding on his circumcision

Kelly Kurt

Common Idioms (Senryu Series)

Insult to Injury

I'm already down
So why kick and spit on me
The damage is done

At the Drop of a Hat

Overly anxious
Ready, willing and able
The wind blew it off

Back to the Drawing Board

That plan didn't work
Let me check the schematics
Where's my eraser

Barking Up the Wrong Tree

Pursuing shadows
You're wasting your time, Fido
A chainsaw might help

Best of Both Worlds

Rare situation
Seldom appreciated
Solar system swap?

You Can't Judge a Book by Its Cover

Shallow Reckoning
Beauty is only skin deep
Maybe a phonebook

Cross That Bridge When You Come to It

Problems enough now

Get over the mountain first
I'll take the tunnel

Cut Corners

Lazy man's method
Greed surrenders quality
Jaywalking offense?

Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining

Consoler's succor
If only experience
Most clouds are just grey

It Takes Two to Tango

Social certainty
Shared responsibility
And eight to square-dance

Jump on the Bandwagon

I want to fit in
Does this make me popular?
Opportunist's ploy

Miss the Boat

Hesitations loss
Bandwagon jumper's peril
Poorly aimed cannon?

Off Your Rocker

Mad as a Hatter
They lock people up for that
Where'd Granny get to?

Piece of Cake

A walk in the park

Little effort was required
Easier than pie?

Dime a Dozen

Contemptibly cheap
Less than a penny apiece
High-priced for sand grains

Drop in the Bucket

Inconsequential
Miniscule contribution
Pale pail supplement

Break a Leg

Good luck is bad luck
Superstition defiance
Racehorse trainer's dread

Don't Look a Gift Horse in the Mouth

An ungrateful act
The steed was free, don't complain
It might bite your nose

Excuse My French

Whoops, that just slipped out
Lost something in translation
Excusez mon français

Got Up on the Wrong Side of the Bed

In a grumpy mood
Everything is going wrong
Smashed face into wall

Hold Your Horses

Be patient cowboy

Don't get ahead of yourself
Ponies need hugs too

Out of the Blue

Unexpectedly
You'll have to settle for red
Are you happy now?

Raining Cats and Dogs

Torrential downpour
Tornado hit the pet store
Don't step in poodles

I Smell a Rat

Sneaking suspicion
Something's rotten in Denmark
It's wearing cologne

When Pigs Fly

Snowball's chance in hell
Umbrella prices will soar
My ship will come in

Kelly Kurt

Commune Pissed (Limerick)

What set Moscow's Red Square to tremblin?

The story goes; it was a gremlin

Bolsheviks in a stew

When those imps resolved to

Paint smiley faces on the Kremlin

Kelly Kurt

Communication (Senryu Series)

Texts

Abbreviated
Alphanumeric message
Teenage profusion

Talking

Done less now-a-days
Human verbal expression
When walking Betrays

Email

Electronic post
New age instant epistle
Becoming passé

Body Language

Physical response
Nonverbal exchange
Physical language

Sign Language

Gesticulation
The middle finger speaks loud
Godsend to the deaf

Morse Code

Samuel's signal
Telegraph Information
S.O.S. cipher

Telephone

Bell united us

Merely secondary now
What would you tell it

Kelly Kurt

Compare? (Haiku)

What can I compare?
Apples, oranges, ups or downs
How silly is that?

Kelly Kurt

Compared To Now

Thirty years ago I had the body of a Greek god
Compared to now

I was energetic, tireless and engaged in life
Compared to now

Adventures abounded and friends were replete
Compared to now

The best years of life laid ahead in vast number
Compared to now

I was ignorant, raw, inexperienced and foolish
Compared to now

Nothing can compare to the singular now

Kelly Kurt

Complicit

You knew

Blame is not solely the instigator's

Acquiescence includes

You have a role

If you are not part of the solution...

Kelly Kurt

Computers (Senryu Series)

Byte

Eight bits of data
Enough for one character
Don't let the Bedbugs

Browser

Software for web search
Many different options
You gonna buy that?

File

Stored information
Backup is recommended
Trim your fingernails

Font

Unique lettering
The right one supports reading
Baptism basin

Monitor

Displays images
Verb is function of the noun
Merrimack's rival

Laptop

Personal notebook
Portable keyboard and screen
Where I spill my food

Password

Secret entry code

Alpha-numeric access
Do not use: PASSWORD

Kelly Kurt

Condensation

Atmospheric moisture is happy where it lives
Free from muddy riverbanks or being strained in sieves
Traveling through the Troposphere from poles to equator
Loving the sovereignty of being water vapor
When freed from liquid form it's called evaporation
Phase shifting when it's cold, produces condensation
Rising in the midday sun it soon becomes a cloud
Cooling off it falls as rain when droplets overcrowd□
In summer's heat when the air is thick and starts to cling
A coaster `neath your iced tea glass foils a water ring

Kelly Kurt

Confidence (Limerick)

Whoever has a question to ask
Can disguise it with a clever mask
You can try to fool me
But only if you'll be
More than certain you're up to the task

Kelly Kurt

Confirmation (Limerick)

A common theme in superstition
Is an admission of contrition
I believed what was told
'Cause the story was old
And didn't demand definition

Kelly Kurt

Conflict

Easily pervading our own minds
Flashing intensely when a second joins
Trifles become exaggerated
Egos become self-righteous
Self-control becomes subordinate
There is little that can't be resolved
Without words
So why not?

Kelly Kurt

Confusion (Senryu)

There are no answers
The questions are meaningless
Tortured mind struggles

Kelly Kurt

Congenital Genesis

Long ago, throughout societies in which we would not fit
When ignorance was rampant
When superstition was the paradigm
When women were even more subjugated
When lust for power was peaking
When little was questioned
When traditions were adopted
Religion was born

Kelly Kurt

Congenital Megalomania (Limerick)

Crowned heads through history have believed
Often leaving their subjects bereaved
No form of prevention
Has offset intention
Perfection's an ideal ne'er achieved

Kelly Kurt

Connections

Extract a neuron

Lay it out on a table and inspect

Where are the thoughts?

Where are the memories?

Where is consciousness?

Billions in the brain

Residing in the network

Emerging from complexity

Remove an individual

Examine him in detail

Where is the society?

Where is community?

Where is brotherhood?

Billions in the world

Residing in the connections

Combining into continuity

Kelly Kurt

Consciousness (How Do I Know I'm Me?)

A soul?
Is that what I am?
Out of the billions of bodies that exist
Have existed
Why am I in this one, now?
Could I just as easily have been a woman?
An Eskimo?
A caveman?
Or not at all?
I am reasonably sure that I am aware
I am all but certain that I'm not you
Experience has indicated that my thoughts are isolated
Whether in my brain, mind or
Consciousness
Is consciousness merely an emergent property?
A quantum state?
An illusion?
If it is who we are, who I am
Where was I before I was aware that I am?
Did I choose this time, this place, this body?
Despite all the pains in my life
Physical and emotional
I would not want to be anyone but me
The thought is terrifying
So in my tumble-down chair, I sit
Alone with my thoughts
My consciousness
Me?

Kelly Kurt

Constellations (Senryu Series)

Orion

Winter sky hunter
Pyramids mimic its belt
Betelgeuse shines red

Ursa Major

Great heavenly bear
Big Dipper forms its hind end
Grizzly in army?

Cassiopeia

Wife of Cepheus
Ever seated in her chair
Upturned half the year

Aquarius

The gods' cup bearer
Ushers in new year and luck
Hippies hailed its dawn

Cancer

Astral crustacean
Bit the foot of Hercules
Malicious disease

Virgo

Portends the harvest
Isis, Ishtar or Ceres
Galactic virgin

Libra

Balances seasons

Equality and justice
The scorpion's claws

Kelly Kurt

Containers (Senryu Series)

Bag

Paper or plastic
Daddy's got a brand new one
Don't let the cat out

Barrel

Wooden whiskey cask
Tubular, bullet pathway
Fun monkey abode

Basket

Picnic lunch box
Transportation to Hades
Cager's objective

Bottle

Baby's spill proof flask
Way to handle emotions?
Alcoholic's god

Can

Long term food storage
Modal possibility
Slang term for bathroom

Folder

Document holder
Computer file storage place
Laundromat worker?

Bucket

Avoid kicking it

Fried chicken receptacle
Before death wish list

Kelly Kurt

Contrails

The western sky is a smoky palette
A Munch inspired horizon
The pacifying firmament
Curdles to implausible blushes
Silence is thunderous
As the jet trespasses
The clear blue is interrupted
By particulate condensation
A lattice of woven heaven
Latitude focuses the bearings
East-west and pregnant
Until a web of vapor
Saturates the eventide vault
A patchwork of condensation
Wishes me a goodnight

Kelly Kurt

Conundrum Omelet (Limerick)

I would get down on my knees and beg
Then hop like a baboon on one leg
If someone could please show
I really want to know
Which came first, the chicken or the egg

Kelly Kurt

Conversations Between Me

I don't address myself directly
No words are spoken aloud
Sometimes the voices are almost audible though
My lips, moving silently in synchrony
Contemplations, internalized exchanges
Debates, occasionally raucous
Always in the background
Analyzing problems, questioning presumptions
Playing multiple roles, various scenarios
A hermit, I am never alone
Monotonous existence, I'm never bored
Sleep does not come easily
The thoughts and Dialogues are persistent
Initiating, steering them is effortless
Hushing them is hopeless

Kelly Kurt

Conversion (Limerick)

A lively young thing would often flirt
In her boldness she lifted her skirt
A pack of wolves saw her
Proceeded to gnaw her
That is why she is now an expert

Kelly Kurt

Convicted And Condemned (Limerick)

Romance and religion parallel
A belief that with them, all is well
Thought's not done with the head
Prayers are said near a bed
And their aftermaths both lead to hell

Kelly Kurt

Conviction (Tanka)

Determination

A deep breath before the plunge

No need to look back

Heart and head embark as one

The goal, already achieved

Kelly Kurt

Convivial Collaboration

The right's not the opposite of the left
The left's not the opposite of the right
To fight is not the opposite of peace
And peace is not the opposite of fight
It seems so many things are polarized
If it's not the best, it must be the worst
If something is only the last resort
Then something else must surely be the first
As far as I can see, with common sense
It can't be lost if it never was found
The precise center is rarely the way
But there can often be some common ground

Kelly Kurt

Cool Burn (Tanka)

Mid February

Warm spell anticipated

I have learned lessons

Winter is not over

Seasons bring their will

Kelly Kurt

Cotton Tail (Haiku)

A yearling rabbit
Smaller than a loaf of bread
Begets untold joy

Kelly Kurt

Court (Senryu Series)

Verdict

The final judgment
Finding, based on evidence
Not always correct

Jury

Panel of your peers
Let he who is without sin
Oh wait, that's no one

Prosecutor

State sponsored terror
Yes, bad guys get put away
But so do good ones

Suit

Legal proceedings
Action filed against culprit
My favorite; Hearts

Hearing

Initial review
Determines further action
If they will listen

Contempt of Court

Act of disrespect
Willful disobedience
Or just apt disdain

Bail

Secures one's return

Forfeited upon absence
Your boat is sinking!

Perjury

Lying under oath
Tell the truth or, so help me
You can't handle it

Plead the Fifth

I will not answer
Self-incriminatory
Plead it? I'll drink it!

Lawyer

Law practitioner
Thespian with a degree
Shakespeare's Thoughts match mine

Evidence

Substantiates claims
Establishes verity
Hearsay does not count

Judge

Passer of rulings
Hopeful justice dispenser
But all too human

Witness

First hand observer
Proven unreliable
Wedding spectator

Recess

Suspend proceedings
Break between bouts of work

Think I'll take one now

Kelly Kurt

Crap

A raven
Flying high in your night sky
Not entirely unnoticeable
I may defecate, unseen
I may echo a haunting call
But I exist
Many such have lived
Goodbye

Kelly Kurt

Creationism

Is it more unreasonable to ask for proof
Or to ask for belief without giving any
A personal impression is not evidence
But it is more than sufficient for so many
To be dependent on faith is every fool's right
What is privately practiced is not my concern
But one cannot demand in the name of their god
That the unsubstantiated needs to be learned

Kelly Kurt

Creators We

We are not gods
We were not created by a god
Indeed, we created the gods
Suddenly sentient, scared Sapiens
Searching, sans science for answers
Imagining explanations into existence
Proselytizing presumptions, procuring power
Creating chaos

Kelly Kurt

Crescent Moon (Haiku)

Wide grin in the sky
Shy satellite hides its eyes
I smile back despite

Kelly Kurt

Cricket In My Room

The call, it comes from everywhere
All hours of the day and night
I've turned my whole room upside-down
Yet he stays hidden from my sight
How can a bug that is so small
Create such a deafening sound
I cannot sleep or concentrate
Until this arthropod is found
I will not stomp upon his head
Should I find where he's concealed
Or pay him back for sleepless nights
To my humanity I'll yield
I will remove him to the yard
My own noise statute to enforce
And let him have a second chance
Singing with his brethren's chorus

Kelly Kurt

Crocus (Haiku)

Impatient flower
Defies winter's lasts moments
Vanguard for tulips

Kelly Kurt

Crossword

Grid of poem pieces waiting to be solved
Testing my vocabulary
And resolve

The pattern may be random every day
But most often with a mirror
Symmetry

Crisscrossing letters shared across and down
Guide the cruciverbalist
(Proper noun)

A way to keep the brain active and fit
If the editor's Will Shorts
Most will quit

Kelly Kurt

Crotchety (Limerick)

If your girlfriend is acting fickle
Running hot, then down to a trickle
If her desire you doubt
There's one way to find out
You have to give her a test tickle

Kelly Kurt

Crowded With Absence

Forlorn chamber, besieged with solitude
Echoes of a life consumed by time
Devastated by its duration
In a life, crowded with absence

Kelly Kurt

Cuisines (Senryu Series)

French

Start meals with Hors d'œuvres
Elocution is tricky
I like the fried spuds

Mexican

Masa Tortillas
I could eat it every day
Whole enchilada

Italian

Pasta and cheeses
New world vegetables transformed
Can't beat a pizza

British

Unfussy dishes
High tea for the working class
Good old fish and chips

German

Lots of sausages
Wonderfully decadent cakes
Wash it down with beer

Chinese

Dairy rarely used
Darn it, I'm hungry again
Ubiquitous rice

Kelly Kurt

Cup Of Tea

I know that I am not everyone's cup of tea
Hell, more like a mug of muddy water
My way of conversing is esoteric
My interests are pedantic, often obscure
Excitement for me is conscious comprehension
Not partying or superficial pursuits
Spontaneity is disagreeable to me
I am frequently "that guy" □
The one who constantly has the right answer
Some, probably most in all actuality
Would call me boring, an eremite, odd
I have no need, or even want, for possessions
I have nothing material to offer
My clothing is old and casual at best
If it wasn't for my habitual smile
Few would likely even acknowledge me
Brief, sporadic visits are all most can endure
Accordingly, I recognize that my few friends
Those that regularly and voluntarily interact with me
Are genuine, sincere
And quite possibly, insane

Kelly Kurt

Curiosity (Haiku)

Divergent impulse
Motivator of knowledge
Feline's assassin

Kelly Kurt

Cynical (Tanka)

A robust south wind
Reacquaints the north with warmth
Winter has its doubts
More than Four weeks left til spring
A blizzard can't be ruled out

Kelly Kurt

Dad

One syllable

In many cases, the first syllable

Its initial utterance is magical

It never grows old, even though you do

Kelly Kurt

Daddy Long Legs

Who the hell dreamed up this thing?
A peppercorn poised on hair
Jointed limbs lug abdomen
Ten times its girth in the air
Walking `cross the basement floor
The antithesis of grace
It only looks more foolish
When it tries to run in place

Kelly Kurt

Daily Foci (Senryu)

Saturday suggests
Weekdays have variations
But Sunday portends

Kelly Kurt

Dairy Airs (Limerick)

From time to time old Bessie was rude
That bovine was often known to brood
Listening to her low
It was easy to know
If she was in a good or bad mood

Kelly Kurt

Daisies

Jagged little leaves belie their delicacy
Spiral insect eye centers of saffron yellow
Sprout silken dove feather petals
So charming and simple, they need no scent
Alone, in a vase, a daisy speaks poesy
Undulating with the wind in a sea of sisters
A tantric tale through interpretive dance is told
How angels weave haloes
And frolic as children

Kelly Kurt

Dance (Senryu Series)

Ballet

More graceful than swans
Stories told without language
Hippos needn't join

Breakdancing

Acrobatic moves
Reserved for the young and spry
I would surely break

Can-Can

High-kicking women
The Infernal Galop plays
Where tins urinate?

Conga Line

Drunken revelry
Three steps forward and a kick
More fun when coed

Hokey Pokey

Done in a circle
Insertion and extraction
What's it all about?

Interpretive

Modern dance movements
Translates human emotions
I stepped on a nail!

Limbo

How low can you go

The most limber will prevail
Outer edge of hell

Square Dance

Four couples form squares
Directed by a caller
Rectangle boogie?

Tango

Two are essential
Argentinian gambol
Code word meaning "T";

Waltz

Done in triple time
Progressive Vienna slide
Belonging to Walt?

Kelly Kurt

Dandelions (Haiku)

In another place
Enchanting sun blushed blossoms
In my lawn, foul weeds

Kelly Kurt

Dangerous Pattern (Senryu)

Enemy within
Holding fast to ignorance
Not swayed by the facts

Kelly Kurt

Darkness (Haiku)

The absence of light
Blackening the depths of space
Coating evil's heart

Kelly Kurt

Dawn And Dusk

Paramours that can never kiss
Romancing commencement and conclusion
Separated by time and tide
Perpetually estranged, but ever hopeful
Of uniting in a glorious sunburst

The first flash of dawn's radiance
Mesmerizes the fully rested eastern horizon
Her long shadows reaching for the west
Across dew stippled grass
That shimmers like a mantle of diamonds
Offered welcome by the choruses of birds
She resonates with the breeze
Searching for her lover

Dusk discards the last vestiges of azure
Replacing it with a Palette of scarlet
Disguising his sorrow with hymns
Sung by somnolent sparrows
Accompanied by an ensemble of insects
His lonesome eyelids steadily close
The deepening murk freeing Venus
Allowing her to receive the night

The two will never meet
Their touch extends only so far
Facilitating poets and lovers
Embellishing the intersections of night and day
Soulmates forever parted

Kelly Kurt

Daylight Savings Time (Haiku)

A magical hour
Extra sleep Sunday morning
Darkness before five

Kelly Kurt

Dec,7th Logic (Senryu)

The midst of chaos
As good a time as any
To act foolishly

Kelly Kurt

December Sun (Senryu)

The first sunny day
After ten days of dark skies
Is truly treasured

Kelly Kurt

Deceptive Senses

The light we see, reflecting off our surroundings
Creating the images that imbue our days
Are wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation
No color exists in them
The sounds we hear, coming from all directions
Warning, informing, beguiling, exposing
Are mechanical waves, propagating through a medium
No noise exists in them
Smell and taste, pleasures of even the poor
Sweet, savory, indulgent, personal
Are molecular chemical detection and analysis
No flavor or aroma exists in them
Touch; pressure and pain, temperature and delight
Does not even occur, only forces ever meet
Physical signs of entropy and change
But no direct contact exists
Perception is personal
Assessment, highly localized
One sense organ
The brain
It is you, but tells you what it chooses
And is not unknown to lie

Kelly Kurt

Decisions (Haiku)

When one seems too few
And two is simply too much
How does one decide?

Kelly Kurt

Decline

When government becomes a caricature of itself
The society is in a decline
Lying, posturing, mud-slinging
Biased, self-righteous, clueless
Hypocrites
Accusing, dodging, pandering
Backscratching, one-percenters
Establishment
Worshipped at home by fools
Laughed at abroad by all
A house divided...

Kelly Kurt

Decline (Haiku)

Hoar frost rings dead leaves
Forest floor snaps under foot
Worsened by long nights

Kelly Kurt

Deduction's Reduction (Limerick)

To get rid of what didn't make sense
Sarcasm when giving compliments
Implicit magician
Mathematician
Subtracted and made a difference

Kelly Kurt

De-Escalation (Limerick)

Missile strikes leave little more than bones
Amidst conflict we send in some drones
Tho words sometimes too hurt
Diplomat, Kelly Kurt
Suggests we return to sticks and stones

Kelly Kurt

De-Evolution?

In the midst of fire and wind
The essence of life stirs
Great walls of stone irridescence
Solemn monuments of time, alive with the heat of ages
Eons of desolation
Suddenly, in the eternity of a second
A trespasser on time appears
Solitary, unique, alive
Its supremacy lasts but a moment
From itself, another
From it, more
The barren expanses now teem with minute life
Insignificant in stature, but overflowing with potential
With nothing but time, they evolve
Their destiny unknown
As they change, so does their world
Their progress leads to thought
Creative juices flow
Conflicts arise
Ultimate creation? Ultimate destruction
The fire and wind that gave rise to life
Consumes all

Kelly Kurt

Defintions

To agree on practically anything
Every term must be defined
Seems even the meaning of what 'is', is
Requires being refined

Kelly Kurt

Delinquency (Limerick)

A twelve percent approval rating
Congress must be extremely grating
When it comes time to vote
People don't think a mote
The same criminals reinstating

Kelly Kurt

Deluge

Oppressive, opaque air
Beads of sweat coalesce into torrents
Dark rings swathe collars
Sinister horizons slink
Insular flickers advance
The bottom drops out
Sheets, blankets, quilts of rain
Gasping soil chokes
Too much, too quick
Sewer grates struggle
All is ocean

Kelly Kurt

Dentist (Senryu Series)

Anesthesia

Novocain needle
Deadens sensitivity
Make mine laughing gas

Checkup

Annual exam
The doctor will see you now
To tell you bad news

Floss

Clean between your teeth
Procedure paired with brushing
Cocoon silk fibers

Extraction

That tooth has to go
Where did I put my pliers?
I told you to brush

Filling

Amalgam tooth plug
Cavity correction caulk
Thanksgiving dinner

X-ray

Diagnostic tool
A dose of radiation
Raymond, after death?

Drill

Disconcerting sound

Interesting boring tool
Repeated training

Kelly Kurt

Depravity's Cavities (Limerick)

A naïve speleologist monk
Wasn't nearly as smart as he thunk
When to settle a bet
Googled; dank, dark and wet
Found some caves that he should not spelunk

Kelly Kurt

Descent

I put on a long sleeve shirt today
My arms, tan from mid-bicep down
Hanging on the back of my door
Is a hoodie I haven't worn since May
It will find its way back on my shoulders soon
The first day of October has arrived

Kelly Kurt

Despair

Deep in the back of my mind
And down in the depths of my soul
I search for a meaning to life□
But much like an unending hole
The more I take from its store
The larger the pit grows in size
Deeper and deeper I search
But instead of turning out wise
I find that I've dug my own grave
For there are no answers to why
For me, there is nothing to save
So I'll give up, lie down and die

Kelly Kurt

Despair 2

Stare at the stars and try to see
If there is a purpose for you to be
I looked and I looked, but the sky held no clue
So I looked towards the Earth, but it was blank too
I am to my distress still alive
For reasons unknown my being still thrives
No purpose I serve, I just feel in the way
Yet I continue to exist, day after day
My demise would bring little grief
To lie down forever would be my relief
I hope you have some dreams or a goal
For despair and hopelessness do take their toll
Years of disappointment and sorrow must end
For I am just hollow, I break while you bend
And as much abuse as I can physically endure
My heart is as fragile as diamonds are pure
So to end the pretense and take my last breath
Is the only way out. I give up to death

Kelly Kurt

Despair 3

Here I sit, alone, like time in space
Memories, living collages of moving colors
Emptiness of confusion, lost dreams
Emotionless, stunned by life
Reality, flickering away like a dying candle
Hope, a meaningless word
The vast spectrum of the swelling void transcends all
Questions unanswered, perhaps forever
Damned to eternal, inner strife
I concede the battle

Kelly Kurt

Despair 4

Extraordinary, encompassing, everlasting
Oh, the infinitely static apocalypse
Hooves trounce my marrow
There is no periphery
Singular, focused nothing
Silent screams
No relief
No end
Pain!

Kelly Kurt

Destined Duplication

A war to end all wars
Followed by countless others
Terrible kings and rulers deposed
Supplanted by tyrants□
Manifest destiny of colonialism
Replaced with occupation
Surplus populace, gratuitously eradicated
Excess masses, wantonly allowed to starve
Appalling, sickening, unfathomable history
Excused, ignored, rationalized
That was then
This will be too

Kelly Kurt

Dialect Affect (Limerick)

With a name most can't seem to recall
It must strip memories from us all
Reason for this belief
Thick tars have heard this reef
Is called something like; "Not Sure Atoll";

Kelly Kurt

Din At Dinner With Dinah (Limerick) Wes' Challenge Response

I don't think it's out of the question
To offer one little suggestion
Bring your I-pod along
Or the date will seem long
Hearing each stage of her digestion

Kelly Kurt

Dinner's Served (Limerick)

Several suits and ties had a debate
A chance to address issues, how great
But mud simply was slung
In some cases 'twas dung
Landing smack on each candidate's plate

Kelly Kurt

Disapproval (Limerick)

A fuzzy faced llama from Peru
Did just what it's expected to do
I invaded its space
And it spit in my face
Which is now fully covered in goo

Kelly Kurt

Disasters (Senryu Series)

Pompeii

Buried in ashes
Vesuvian upheaval
Fury of Vulcan

The Black Death

Rat borne contagion
Two-hundred million perished
No god would help them

Spanish Influenza

Global pandemic
More deadly than World War One
Deadly second wave

Titanic

Unsinkable myth
Consequence of arrogance
Ice defeated steel

Chernobyl

Nuclear nightmare
Radioactive fallout
Historic lesson

Japan Tsunami

Tohoku earthquake
Costliest in history
Will live in infamy

Global Warming

Greenhouse gas effect

Catastrophic climate change
It may be too late

Kelly Kurt

Diseases (Senryu Series)

Flu

Old wives say to starve
Highly infectious virus
Somebody shoot me

Cold

Not that uncommon
Upper respiratory
Darn kids gave me one

Cancer

Abnormal cell growth
Not always a death sentence
Crab constellation

Alzheimer's

Cause of dementia
Cruel malady of old age
Congress must have it

Alcoholism

Dependence on booze
Cirrhosis of the liver
Often in denial

Arthritis

Joint inflammation
Loss of flexibility
Oh my aching back

Diabetes

Blood-sugar problems

Insufficient insulin
Lose some weight Kelly

Kelly Kurt

Dissembler

As a hypocrite, I justify
Rationalize
Point fingers
Assess my failures lightly
Sparingly
Inaction, a choice
Yet somehow I sleep
Neither ignorant
Nor oblivious
True to form
Among the majority

Kelly Kurt

Distance

Measured in linear space, it separates locations
Calculated chronologically, it segregates temporal positions
Gauged in consideration, it divides men's hearts
Experiential in allegory, and quantifiable in the tangible
It is an Expanse to be negotiated
An interval to endure
A Disconnect to reconcile
No space, time or detachment is too large to conquer
Distance is a challenge, not a barrier

Kelly Kurt

Distant Frogs (Haiku)

Late night recital
Frogs disclose pond location
Tadpoles endangered

Kelly Kurt

Distant Train

Restless and exhausted, I wandered outside
Clammy, cloudy and tranquil, the late night exhaled
I breathed in its sigh as I paced the blackness
Abandoned thoughts hovered like lost moths
The opaque stillness distilled the moment
On the edge insentience, the ground trembled
A rolling, guttural resonance saturated the west
Nocturnal spell, broken by a distant train
I collected my consciousness and returned inside

Kelly Kurt

Diverse Community Of Poets (A Tribute To Ph)

Politics, diplomacy and sports
Have nothing on poetry
There is no disdain or distrust
No competition, grandstanding or coercions
From all across Africa and the Middle East
Down under in Australia, throughout the orient
India, Europe and the Americas
Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Hindu
Dark skin, light skin
Rich, poor
Young, old
Male, female
Poets are a society of harmony
An amalgamation of dreamers
Sharing their talents freely
Encouraging and motivating others
Verbally nourishing the planet's soul
Would that everybody a poet be

Kelly Kurt

Dividing Line

Dividing Line

I should have written this last night
When the sensations were still fresh
So let's see how it goes ten hours later
I was dropped off at a club on the outskirts of town
Some friends were playing music there
I sat through a few sets
Applauding and taking in the ambience
I don't get out much
The majority of patrons were drunk
Or well on their way
I engaged several, to hear their stories
People love to talk about themselves
I did little talking, beyond asking more questions
As the music blasted, I heard tales that needed to come out
"I hate my brother! "
"I used to grow pot in California."
"My job sucks! "
After releasing them from the pent
It was time for the long walk back
A warm night for October tenth
A moonless, starry sky followed me
The clamor of the club, far behind
Silence in the middle of the road
Bright yellow lines stitching to the horizon
Just a few hours earlier, this would have been crazy
(It still was a little)
The main highway north through this area
Cars and trucks whizzed by at day
But in the witching hour
I chose neither side
I straddled the center
All the way home

Kelly Kurt

Divorce (Haiku)

Where once love endured
Silence and regret now dwell
The scars of divorce

Kelly Kurt

Do It Yourself (Limerick)

An old man tried to cut his own hair
Each clip left less and less of it there
With hairline receding
And both his ears bleeding
Folks have another reason to stare

Kelly Kurt

Do You?

Do you want to know?

Do you give a damn?

Do you have the time?

Do you understand?

Do you have the patience, the quiet strength of maturity?

Do you have imagination or are you so blind, you will not see?

Do you think you're alone?

Do you pity yourself?

Do you make a stand?

Do you ask for help?

Do you make a choice and follow through with all possible means?

Do you have ambition, or do your hopes amount to a hill of beans?

Do you seek the truth?

Do you need a friend?

Do you smile enough?

Do you comprehend?

Do you make a difference in the lives of others who aren't as strong?

Do you make an effort, do you right the wrongs?

Do you?

Kelly Kurt

Doctors (Senryu Series)

Anesthesiologist

They put you to sleep
Not because they are boring
Though I'm sure some are

Pediatrician

Children's physician
Bedside manner critical
Lollipops, a must

Ophthalmologist

Diagnose the eye
Treats ocular diseases
Does not make glasses

Podiatrist

Will admit da feet
Lowest form of medicine?
I feel like a heel

Cardiologist

If you skip a beat
His heart is into his job
Impulsive career?

Proctologist

For a pain in the...
Job mishap nearly wrecked him
Their profession stinks

Gynecologist

Should I touch this one?

I don't want any trouble
I'm just a pussy

Psychiatrist

Mental health expert
Psychologist on steroids
I'd drive them crazy

Coroner

Last doctor you'll see
Medical examiner
Apt end to Senryu

Kelly Kurt

Dog Eat Dog (Limerick)

It is more than just a presumption
In fact I can state it with gumption
Nothing lives on its own
Biology has shown
All life is an act of consumption

Kelly Kurt

Dog Owners (Limerick)

Bestowing traits on our pets with ease
Has become a suburban disease
His is really astute
Hers is cuter than cute
And mine is so quick, she's caught fleas

Kelly Kurt

Don't Ask (Limerick)

A curious but out to lunch teen
Had a question burning in his bean
Reply beyond his ken
"Yes", was told to him when
He asked, "What does inquisitive mean? "

Kelly Kurt

Don'T Ask Me

If you want to know why people do what they do
If you want to know how ignorance became canon
If you want to know where consideration went□
If you want to know what became of thinking
If you want to know how the world became a mess
If you want to know who knows these things
Don't ask me
Because I'll tell you
And you don't want to know

Kelly Kurt

Don't Blink

I have no recall of before I was born
No fear or regret
No anticipation or pain
No beliefs
Nothing
I will soon return
What was the point?

Kelly Kurt

Down For The Count (Limerick)

Scarecrow boxing was big in its day
Two strawmen in an all-out melee
I would watch every night
Wanting to join the fight
All I managed was hitting the hay

Kelly Kurt

Down With The Sun (Limerick)

When others are just starting their day
I have yet to even hit the hay
Up at the crack of noon
Winter sunset too soon
I won't see much daylight until May

Kelly Kurt

Downfall (Senryu)

What is the hurry
To win is not an honor
Race to the bottom

Kelly Kurt

Downside (Senryu)

Radioactive

Electromagnetic storms

Dark side of the sun

Kelly Kurt

Downside To Upchuck (Limerick)

The value of your stocks will plummet
Negative publicity from it
Much sooner than later
If you choose to cater
The global bulimia summit

Kelly Kurt

Dragonfly

Transparent, veined wings dissolve in flight
Becoming a smudge of frenzied intention
Gamboling off the stagnant slough's surface
Impulsive, impossible deviations in direction
Then hovering as though dangling from a ghostly thread
Settled on a cat-tail, its iridescent wings shimmer
Spread to seize the sun's bounteous buoyance
The impetuous insect's repose is fleeting
Off again to forage the skies as a blur

Kelly Kurt

Dreams

When I was young, I was told
That dreams are worth much more than gold
They can take you far away
Or keep you where you want to stay
They are yours to have and treasure
And can live up to any measure
If you use them true and wise
They can be more useful than your eyes
To guide you to your every goal
And keep you strong in heart and soul
So if you're stressed or felling blue
You know exactly what to do
Close your eyes, let off some steam
Lay back, relax, and dream, dream, dream

Kelly Kurt

Dreams (Haiku)

Asleep or awake
Ambitions and desires
Start with a vision

Kelly Kurt

Dreams And Reality? (Haiku)

Asleep in a dream
I dreamt that I was dreaming
Three realities? ☐

Kelly Kurt

Drinking My Tears

The summer had been long, hot and arid
The earth cracked, like age old plaster
Brunette grass, wilted, pathetic flowers
Baby acorns dropped immature
Like spiral hatted hail
I walked the forlorn grounds at noon
Sweat vaporizing before forming beads
Leaving a mineralized scale on exposed skin
Around the side of a desiccated hydrangea
A shifting smudge Approached
A cloud of gnats eerily suspended
Some immediately committing suicide
Plunging down my throat
Or up my nose
But many others
Parched and with the will to live
Landed in my eyes
Drinking my tears

Kelly Kurt

Driving Me Nuts (Limerick)

Duffer Joe's tee shot flutters, then falls
His projectiles are smooth as glass walls
My drives are all first rate
And what makes them fly straight
Are the dimples I have on my balls

Kelly Kurt

Drought (Haiku)

Fractured, thirsting dirt
Shriveled and sunburned flora
Looming inferno

Kelly Kurt

Duality?

Bruce publically went from quite rugged to tender
As he identified himself as transgender
Rachel got a weave and a tan colored facial
As a result, coining the new term, transracial
I too have a variegated identity
There are more components to me than people see
Wise as an owl and gentle as a newborn lamb
Stronger than an ox and quiet as mice I am
It might take writing a complicated thesis
But simply stated, I'll call myself Tran-species

Kelly Kurt

Duos (Senryu Series)

Adam and Eve

Fictional sinners
Mesopotamian pair
She took his ribbing

Arm and a Leg

Exorbitant price
Hokey Pokey essentials
Main appendages

Bacon and Eggs

Breakfast paradigm
European forage plant
Shopping list staples

Salt and Pepper

Foremost in spice rack
Distinguished gentleman's hair
Female hip hop group

Batman and Robin

Dynamic duo
DC Comics' crime fighters
Dubious union

Death and Taxes

Only things certain
One's better than the other
But only slightly

Jekyll and Hyde

Stevenson novel

Freudian duality
Many an ex-wife

Rock and a Hard Place

Metaphorical
Impossible dilemma
Where a Hyrax lives

War and Peace

Tolstoy's epic book
The latter rarely breaks out
Straightforward option

Kelly Kurt

Duplicitous Day

Forty years ago on this date
My dear sister turned seventeen
Every reason to celebrate
But a cruel fate would contravene
Our mother of just forty-three
Died on that same cold afternoon
How could this trial come to be
Mother of six to die so soon
No single year has since gone by
Without this retrospective bomb
So now I say, with loving sigh
Happy birthday Sue, miss you mom

Kelly Kurt

Duplicitous Dregs

They claim violation
Right to discriminate infringed
They feel free to deny
Services
Licenses
Respect
The shoe on the other foot
raises blisters

Kelly Kurt

Dusk (Senryu Series)

Bats

Flying mammals
Nocturnal insectivore
Wooden baseball club

Moonlight

Casts thoughtful shadows
Diminishes star splendor
Diet satellite?

Venus

Second from the sun
Also called the evening star
Goddess of beauty

Introspection

Cool contemplation
Considering consequence
Critical calmness

Streetlights

Guardians of night
Illuminate dark corners
Midnight moth magnets

Insects

Cricket crescendos
Mosquitoes' dinner-bell tolls
Butterflies slumber

Kelly Kurt

Earth (Tanka)

Small, rocky planet
Orbiting a mundane star
A galactic speck
Trivial piece of flotsam
Center of our universe

Kelly Kurt

Earthlings

Trees, plankton, cows
Ants, elephants, pigeons
Mice, deer, sharks
Humans
Black, white
Alive - One

Kelly Kurt

Earthquake (Haiku)

Sudden upheaval
Ground ruptures, buildings topple
Lives harshly altered

Kelly Kurt

Earthworms (Haiku)

Underground dwellers
Vital to ecology
And catching bluegill

Kelly Kurt

East German Rushin' (Limerick)

European beer celebrations
Test tourists' bladder limitations
You know it's just rented
That's why I invented
Bathroom maps for all urine nations

Kelly Kurt

Egalitarianism

All men are not created equal
Short, tall
Weak, strong
Privileged, disadvantaged
Myriad differences
No two the same
These diversities should not preclude opportunity
Education, healthcare
A living wage, a voice
Freedom, hope
Respect
Sixty-two people
Sixty-two people have more wealth
Than the poorest three and a half billion
Combined
Squandered, under taxed, untaxed
Wrested from the hyper-exploited
Undeserved
Disgusting
Evil
Unjustifiable
Indefensible
Unsustainable
Correctable

Kelly Kurt

Ego (Limerick)

I now have a big, fat, swelled up head
Perhaps it'll last until I am dead
Popular at long last
A new source of bombast
At least one other human has read

Kelly Kurt

Either Or, In-Between, Other

Options made limited

One or the other

Polar

Good or bad

Somewhere intermediate

Black, white, shades of grey

I choose other

Kelly Kurt

Either Way (Senryu)

Intelligence elsewhere?
Regardless of the answer
It is frightening

Kelly Kurt

Elders' Obligation

Who did you need when you were young?
A friend that would encourage
A mentor that freely guided
A stranger at the right moment to smile
Would that have made a difference?
You know it would have
Give someone else that opportunity
Be that person

Kelly Kurt

Election Deflection (Limerick)

The atheist running for mayor
Up against a righteous portrayer
Was told he should just quit
By the big hypocrite
Given that he hadn't a prayer

Kelly Kurt

Electricity (Tanka)

Fundamental force
Propagating at light speed
Powering the world
Dangerous if not controlled
Felt when lovers' eyes first meet

Kelly Kurt

Elevator Operator (Limerick)

In the world of unchecked ambition
Getting to the top is the mission
You can't take the staircase
It is not a foot race
Chasing a high level position

Kelly Kurt

Embrace The Spectrum

I held a pristine piece of writing paper against my forearm
In the brightness of the overhead fluorescent light, it was obvious
I am not white!
German and Irish ancestors
Burned as readily in moderate sun exposure
But were as nonwhite as I

Get a piece of paper
(Or anything the color you are generally labeled by society)
Hold it up against your skin
Native Americans, are you red?
Eastern Asians, are you yellow?
Africans, are you black?

Some whole alien populations in the vastness of space
May be blue or green
And proud of it
The azure academic Andromedans
The Perseus 3 green explorers
Earthlings have thousands of shades
Embrace the spectrum

Kelly Kurt

Emit (Backwards Time)

Eggs suddenly unscramble and return to intact shell
Multi-feathered arrow, comes back to William Tell
I and others likewise are growing young as well
This is all as unlikely as un-ringing a bell

Kelly Kurt

Emotions (Senryu Series)

Love

Greatest of them all
Often a mind of its own
Unselfish at core

Hate

Blinding when hot
From a sinkhole of darkness
Punishes holder

Fear

Unspeakably felt
Evolutionary edge
Often all for naught

Joy

Momentary bliss
Unnoticed in the rat race
Little ones change mood

Envy

A palette of green
Consumes time and energy
More is not enough

Sadness

The heart, made of lead
Mere words can't alleviate
A shadow cast broad

Pity

Better than it sounds

Virtue, if acted upon
Not wished for the self

Anger

A bloody crimson
Insane temporarily
Influx of hormones

Kelly Kurt

Encounter With Ants

Kneeling down to pull weeds in the shade garden, around the base of a wisteria, next to the empty fish pond, I inadvertently disturbed a large colony of ants. Small, brown ants, about the size of a sesame seed, swarmed in the thousands, bringing several square feet of lawn to life. Staring at the chaotic motion made me dizzy, so I put my left hand down to steady myself. Instantly, I was covered in little brown flecks, as if a child scooped way too many sprinkles onto his ice cream. I watched for a moment, fascinated by their focus and fervor, until they started to bite. I didn't want to brush them off, knowing that dozens would be crushed in the effort. (I had already uprooted their home and exposed untold eggs.) For several seconds, I blew as hard as I could to send them wafting back to earth. Several times, I thought I had them all off, only to find more by my elbow and then my shoulder. My attention, solidly on my arm, I failed to move from my genuflection, and having blustered the last ant from my arm, found regiments on my legs. (I was wearing shorts) Unable to blow them off, I was forced to sweep them away with my hands before they reached more sensitive areas. I stood up and backed away far enough to prevent further bodily infestation, and continued to liberate my legs from their occupation. Tangled in leg hair and sock fuzz, quite a few, unfortunately, met a pulped, dismembered end. Freed at last from the invasion, I watched from a distance as the ants toiled tirelessly to repair the destruction I had unintentionally wrought. Twenty minutes later, all the eggs were reburied and the activity had all returned underground.

Kelly Kurt

End

The party still goes on, but you have to leave

Not uninvited

A new party starts; you as the only guest

Others' invitations, delayed

No rsvp required

Or possible

Kelly Kurt

End Times (Limerick)

The right half of my butt I can't find
Of the two sides, it was the most kind
The victim of capture
By predicted rapture
And all that was left, was left behind

Kelly Kurt

Energy Sources (Senryu Series)

Solar

Photovoltaics
Renewable (til nova)
Active and passive

Wind

Air flow through turbines
Growing power on wind farms
Harness congressmen

Hydroelectric

No greenhouse gasses
Landscape altering drawbacks
Use the river, dam it

Coal

Cheap but polluting
Carboniferous corpses
Filthy fossil fuel

Oil

Climate change culprit
Part owner of governments
Middle-east muscle

Natural Gas

Heating and cooking
Mainly composed of methane
Frickin fracking fouls

Nuclear

Generating heat

Mass times the speed of light squared
And what of the waste?

Geothermal

Earth's internal warmth
Provides heating for Iceland
Old Faithful's fuel

Kelly Kurt

Enigma (Limerick)

Time travel, the big white elephant
Forward is easy and elegant
Backwards would be the hit
And when would we want it?
The answer is that's irrelevant

Kelly Kurt

Enigmatic Autonomy (Limerick)

Are all of my options indeed nil
Am I pushing a rock up a hill
Despite how hard I strive
It would seem as though I've
No choice but to believe in free will

Kelly Kurt

Enough

Yes, two will sometimes quite nicely do
But what ensues when you're through
A yearning for more comes to be
And suddenly you want three
The third leads to desire for more
Before you know it, you have four
But four will not keep you alive
So now you itch for number five
It snowballs quickly and then
Doubles, leaving you with ten
At this rate, you must admit
Soon your needs are infinite
So when all is said and done
I'll be satisfied with one

Kelly Kurt

Enough (Limerick)

All I have are the necessities
Tho many aren't even blessed with these
The position I vaunt
Knowing what's need from want
Foremost of contentment's recipes

Kelly Kurt

Enquiry Selection (Tanka)

Stumbling in the dark
It is hard to find answers
Altered by brain's means
Framed by narrow conception
Question choices, clumsy

Kelly Kurt

Enter At Your Own Risk (Limerick)

Welcome to the inside of my brain
If you can survive here and stay sane
You can give me a dime
If you find it sublime
I charge two for each insight you gain

Kelly Kurt

Entirety

My forbearers' future
My descendants' past
For some, I came slowly
For others, too fast
Each generation, wisps
Blooms that fade away
Past, present and future
All in me today

Kelly Kurt

Entropy (Tanka)

System disorder

Energy, information

Unavailable

Too random for use in work

State of my pre-coffee mind

Kelly Kurt

Eons (Haiku)

Alone on a world
Two organisms shared genes
Eons later, I was

Kelly Kurt

Ephemeral Oasis

A thorough pruning restores order
Redefining borders emphasizes well maintained status
Walks and paths, relieved of needles and leaves, frame
The season's final mow, after several passes
Disintegrates desiccated deciduous detritus
Revealing a still fully green lawn
Ever ripening tomatoes punctuate in shades of red
Marigolds and zinnias defiantly decorate
While anemic to July's enthusiasm
Impressive for a Halloween revival
Earnest efforts, futile, at the mercy of the first hard freeze
Hours, valued like days
Last oasis of photosynthesis for five, bleak months
April expectation's antithesis

Kelly Kurt

Epiphany

I don't think I've heard anything as clearly
After which, nothing was ever the same
No vibration can change a life so dearly
As having your first child call out your name

Kelly Kurt

Equal

No fancy words are required
You need not reach or equivocate
Are there differences?
Hallelujah, yes!
But we are the same species
Consciousness does not diverge with gender
Equal
Equal
Equal
Daughters, mothers, sisters, friends
Doctors, laborers, scientists, business owners
Ability and worth do not hinge on sex
Equal
Equal
Equal
Ancient religious biases
Texts written by and for men
Ignorant, selfish and wrong
Equal
Equal
Equal

Kelly Kurt

Equinox (Tanka)

The sun sets due west
Night and day share equally
Only one will spread
Spring dampens nocturnal phase
Autumn embezzles daylight

Kelly Kurt

Equivalence

I don't hang out with socialites
I don't hang solely with scholars
I don't live just among athletes
Nor the homeless, without dollars
I don't choose a single segment
Nor deny my time to others
But if they choose to hang with me
I will treat them all as brothers

Kelly Kurt

Error To Origin (Limerick)

So glad the site's back up and running
The number of errors was stunning
I cannot tell you why
That no one could reply
But I can now get back to punning

Kelly Kurt

Ersatz Me

I was very small when I was born
Even so, I was made up of trillions of cells
And trillions of atoms making each of those cells
I am thirty times heavier now
And nearly six decades older
Science has shown that most of our cells
Are replaced on a reasonably regular basis
The atoms, forming those cells
Are replaced even more regularly
And with little doubt were incorporated
In the bodies of thousands of other humans
(And animals, plants, rocks and even stars)
The information, encoded in my DNA
Keeps all of this substitution, true to form
But on a physical level, I am never the being I was
Neural cells are not replaced
But the atoms that fashion them are
How does that speak for quantum mind and consciousness?
I already adhere to the belief, that physically
I am not me
The matter that decomposes and scatters after my body dies
Will be merely the latest version of my vehicle
Eventually distributed to exist, temporarily
In other configurations, some living, some not

Kelly Kurt

Escape Velocity

The past, gravitationally binding
Attracted proportionally by emotional intensity
Inversely constrained by timespan
Unfortunate infinite range
Kinetic energy of expectations
Ballistic momentum of present contentment
Break free asymptotically□
Speed, not as critical as sufficient propellant

Kelly Kurt

Established Mentality

Records are available
(The ones that are released)
Lies are most of platforms
Sincerity deceased
Independents get no voice
Brooklyn gets subdued
You don't really have much choice
Democracy has skewed
Nothing is done about it
We're all taken for fools
Some are just not satisfied
With just one set of rules
This isn't our first go around
Establishment always wins
Stuck with them for four long years
Til the next cycle begins
Complaining in majority
"We are not represented! ";
This all seems familiar
Constituents demented

Kelly Kurt

Eucalyptus Tree

Eighteen inches tall and no thicker than a pencil
A eucalyptus tree was given to me
I have a green thumb, or so people say
A love for all life is the key
From April through September I brought it outside
To soak up the full gift of the sun
The other half of the year it lived indoors with me
As if my significant one
By second summer's start it had doubled in size
And gave off an aromatic scent
It spoke to the yard and passers-by
With a distinct Aussie accent
Year after year the same cycle repeated
'Til my tree was over six feet tall
Thick as a quarter at its base
When it came in with me last Fall
January's lassitude became a little deeper
When my tree suddenly expired
This April will miss the ceremonial switch
As its planter has been retired

Kelly Kurt

European Landmarks (Senryu Series)

Eiffel Tower

Wrought iron lattice
Loftiest since pyramids
An eyeful indeed

Stonehenge

Many theories
Prehistoric stone structure
Woodhenge must have failed

Leaning Tower of Pisa

Faulty foundation
Galileo's drop locale
Maybe it's just me

Parthenon

Athenian shrine
Built upon the Acropolis
It lost its marbles

Brandenburg Gate

Built as sign of peace
The Quadriga decks the top
No hinges required

Coliseum

Largest ever built
Gladiators and wild beasts
Postcard preference

Blue Mosque

Minarets and domes

Built for Sultan Ahmed I
Tells off-color jokes?

Kelly Kurt

Excess (Senryu)

More than can be used
Hoarded at others' expense
Criminal at best

Kelly Kurt

Excuses (Senryu Series)

It's In the Mail

Where is my money?
I did the work, now pay up
Use a stamp next time

The Dog Ate My Homework

It was in his bowl
He is a very smart dog
The cat wouldn't swallow

I Have a Headache

Not tonight, honey
What do you mean when you say
Your head's throbbing too?

I Forgot

It isn't my fault
You forgot to remind me
Don't you remember

I'm Too Old

But all that I asked
Was for you to watch the pot
To see when it boiled

That's Not My Job

How can you say that?
You are the team's quarterback
Return my two bits

The Alarm Didn't Go Off

How can that matter?

You live in the fire station
And it was on fire

Kelly Kurt

Excuses (Tanka)

Justifications?

Last-minute apologies

Defensive tactics

Id's rationalization

Reasons' red-headed step-son

Kelly Kurt

Exercises (Senryu Series)

Sit-ups

Sculpting a six-pack
Crunches are more efficient
Won't get rid of fat

Push-ups

Multi-joint workout
Correct form is essential
Uses body weight

Squats

With or without weights
Keep back straight and over heels
Diddly variety?

Curls

He-man favorite
Building bigger beach biceps
Shirley Temple's hair

Jogging

High impact on joints
Cardio-vascular work
I would rather bike

Yoga

Downward facing dog
Ridiculously tight tights
I can't bend like that

Swimming

Just four basic strokes

Engages the whole body
Safe for all ages

Isometrics

No muscle length change
Contraction without movement
Less injury risk

Kelly Kurt

Exhaustion For An Older Man

Every ounce of my being is fatigued
I must have more than the 640 normal muscles
Because it hurts beyond what that number could generate
206 bones and 360 joints ...my ass! !
At present I have no joints
I am one stiff, aching mass of afferent nerves
Dehydrated, mentally Drained and miserable
Why?
Because I did something that forty years ago
I could have done standing on my head
With a donkey on my back
Climbing a dune in Death Valley
In one third the time
Five times a day for fifteen straight years
But, as an older man, I have learned
To appreciate exhaustion
Goodnight

Kelly Kurt

Expect

Expect nothing□

Expect all

Expect to get up after a fall

Expect to come

Expect to go

Expect to reap that which you sow

Expect confusion

Expect some pain

Expect sunshine after it rains

Expect to laugh

Expect to cry

Expect not to know the reasons why

Expect to expect

Expect that's true

Expectations are nothing new

Kelly Kurt

Expeience Of Self

That voice inside your head
A narration at times; at others, a dialogue
Most noticeable in the silence of solitude
But it is always there
You do not direct these thoughts
Nor in fact are you the author of any
Overlooked or disregarded, this is what is you
Clues to primacy, inklings of subconscious
Experience of self

Kelly Kurt

Exploitation (Limerick)

Understanding the best that I can
The pitiful condition of man
The claim to be prophet
To gain something off it
Has been more than a flash in the pan

Kelly Kurt

Exsanguinated Valentine (Senryu)

One more holiday
Ostensibly commercial
Coercing spending

Kelly Kurt

Extinct Animals (Senryu Series)

Dodo

Lived on Mauritius
Killed off in one-hundred years
I have been called worse

Passenger Pigeon

Once numbered billions
Senseless extermination
Hoodwinked traveler?

Woolly Mammoth

Climate change victim
Poor Pleistocene pachyderm
Ice age art subject

Aurochs

Last found in Poland
Ancestor of all cattle
Don't clean with Clorox

Tasmanian Tiger

Gone for eighty years
Meat eating marsupial
Devil's next of kin

Baiji

Yangtze cetacean
Gone in the blink of an eye
Bye bye to Baiji

Kelly Kurt

Extortion Torsion (Limerick)

Venture capitalist bought the cure
Gouged the price, putting lives in danger
What's this illness of his?
The diagnosis is
A malignant form of heart failure

Kelly Kurt

Extrapolation (Limerick)

In proportion, my knowledge is small
But most of what I've learned, I recall
A discernment that brings
If you know the right things
It's not essential to know it all

Kelly Kurt

Eyeless Optimism (Senryu)

Too good to be true
A warning, too oft ignored
Too true to be good

Kelly Kurt

Eyesight (Tanka)

Favored of senses
Underappreciated
Until lost to age
Bifocals restore vision
So don not lose those as well

Kelly Kurt

F=ma (Empirical Ability) (Limerick)

For a price he will peer into the mist
(Let's see if he can predict my fist)
His con I'm not buying
Lies will leave him lying
Since psychic powers do not exist

Kelly Kurt

Face Value (Poem# 500)

Behind the smile, paraded with practice
An alternate reality resides
Clever mask of self-imposed deception
Behind the eyes, lacking the light of life
Actuality is the sole resident
Suppressed, obscured, interred
Insipid book with flamboyant cover
Open the pages and read between the lines
Take not the face at face value

Kelly Kurt

Failure

Faltering and falling
Again and again
Is not a disaster
Lest you refuse to resume
Ultimate triumph
Requires
Endurance

Kelly Kurt

Fair Exchange

A thousand tomorrows
For one blissful today
A fair trade considering
Yesterdays' poor array

Would you give up a year
To assure a moment
One that's wholly savored
Or even just content

A price on time's substance
Is worth a second thought
Not every day's priceless
Despite what we've been taught

Kelly Kurt

Fall Follies - Streetsweeping

Louder than any other competing sound
The large orange beast roared slowly down the street
A pair of rotating brushes, hissing against the pavement
Clouds of dust, sweeping into a smokescreen
Blurring the view behind it
Out ahead, an enormous trunk hung
Clearing the curb of flotsam
A few, painstaking feet at a time
Backing up with a piercing beep
And proceeding forward for another pass
The pavement was now grey again
Sewer grates exposed for efficient draining
Roads, safe for taxpayer travel
All of twenty minutes later
A stiff gust from the west kicked up
Restoring equilibrium

Kelly Kurt

Fallen Fruit

Gangly tree, once covered with spring's pastel
Bows towards the soil, heavily laden with yield
September's muse, maturing, honeying
Dew dappled sward is flecked with the fallen
Riven with ripeness, the succulent flesh decays
Wizened skin sloughs off the browning pulp
Imparting a mellifluous fragrance to fall's air
Seductive scent entices the winged
Crowded with squadrons of flies and bees
The fruit appears quickened
Nature's portion shared with insects and dirt

Kelly Kurt

Fallout (Limerick)

He died broke, ere Sue could marry him
She started an honorarium
Radiation disease
Brought on funeral fees
And she could not pay to barium

Kelly Kurt

Familiarity Etc. (Limerick)

To avoid all the drama and strife
I will never again have a wife
It is all just as well
I can easily tell
I have known me for most of my life

Kelly Kurt

Fan (Senryu)

Invested spirit
Irrational connection
Rollercoaster ride

Kelly Kurt

Farms (Senryu Series)

Silo

Container for grain
Cylindrical edifice
World War Three onset

Acre

Division of land
Forty-eight hundred square feet
I stubbed my big toe

Barn

Oversized outbuilding
Characteristically red
Were you born in one?

Plow

Tiller of topsoil
Planting predecessor
Do farmer's daughter?

Tractor

Pulling heavy loads
Large, heavily treaded tires
I barely knew `er

Crops

Food for the masses
Rotated annually
Cut out of picture

Livestock

Raised for consumption

Domesticated dinner
Don't get too attached

Fertilizer

Enhances plant growth
Often made with ammonia
That's a load of crap

Kelly Kurt

Fascism (Senryu)

Can you criticize?
If not, you're subjugated
Basic freedom denied

Kelly Kurt

Fault (Senryu)

Pretend all you want
Reality is hidden
You helped put it there

Kelly Kurt

Fealty

Unwavering loyalty
The greatest of character traits
Respect should be a reflex
But trust is earned
To live and give honesty and fidelity
Is an honor and honorable
To receive the unfettered fealty of another
Is to know a fragment of the divine

Kelly Kurt

Fear

Fear is the thorn that protects the rose
The moat keeping knights from the castle
The darkness at noon
Failure before commencement
Fear is that illusion
That worry
That dread without substance
A hollow, echoing gremlin
The devils delight

Kelly Kurt

Feeding Time (Senryu)

Nourishment is required
It can be a chore
Or joyful celebration

Kelly Kurt

Female?

- _ - _ -

I will never know what it's like to be female
My first thought is; "Thank God! "
Breasts seem particularly cumbersome
Regular menstruation has to suck
Inequality, even in the west, is still pervasive
If you're "Pretty", you're objectified
If you are not an archetype, you're disregarded
My second thought is; "What wonders am I missing? "
The most obvious is creating life
But the sensations of both body and mind
The relationships and freedom of emotion
The matchless thoughtfulness and gentle nature
Incalculable, unimaginable distinctions
But then I wonder more deeply
Is there more than the physical?
More than the biological
More than the neurological
Are women's souls, female?

Kelly Kurt

Fertilization Realization (Limerick)

My knowledge, I'm told, must grow wider
No kids could I seem to provide her
Do not be so thick, Kel
Like making a pickle
She told me to put it in cider

Kelly Kurt

Fertilizer

Shit doesn't care about roses
Roses don't think about shit
But roses grow stout in compost
And don't smell at all like it

Kelly Kurt

Find The Positive

There is plenty of negative out there
So if that is what you are looking for
You are going to find more than your fill
All the while creating even more
Find the positive and it will find you
It hides ubiquitously neath your nose
Even in what seems like the worst of things
Some good is often lying in repose

Kelly Kurt

Finest Hour

Life, it seemed, was void of light
No reason to keep up the fight
Then I gave a forlorn child a flower
That my friend was my finest hour
I paused to take in the emotion
An island of peace in an ocean of commotion
I could not believe the instant power
Of experiencing my finest hour
To give is to receive, or so I've heard
But til that moment, merely words
Trapped by ennui in the tallest tower
Til set free by my finest hour
If lost in yourself and feeling lacking
A dearth of purpose, always backing
Sit not alone in mood of dour
Let giving, give you your finest hour

Kelly Kurt

Finished? (Haiku)

Where do you go now?
Is it truly time to leave?
Have you finished here?

Kelly Kurt

Firefighting (Senryu Series)

Alarm

Signal for action
Starts adrenaline pumping
Five for their chili

Arson

Pyromania
Collect insurance money
But not our daughter

Ladder

Reach the higher floors
Carry victims to safety
Jacob has his own

Suspenders

Brightly colored straps
Put on in lieu of a belt
High school principals?

Dalmatian

Black spotted canine
Mascot in some fire stations
One-hundred and one

Fire Hydrant

Street corner fixture
High pressure hose connections
Dalmatian's bathroom?

Water

Copiously used

Deprives flames of oxygen
Cools off urban youth

Kelly Kurt

Fireflies

Random glints, like astral Morse code
Delight the dusk
Amber glows trace gentle arcs
The performance is not for us
Seeking only to propagate
They bio luminesce
At the risk of being found
Not by a mate
But by a hungry bird
Or curious child
With a jar

Kelly Kurt

Firmament's Rapture

Just above the eastern horizon
Cantaloupe cup moon loiters
Venus' sidereal shift shimmers
The predawn vault whispers
"Look and see the wonder"
I do, and quietly weep

Kelly Kurt

First Frost (Tanka)

Delicate veneer
Condensing exquisitely
Sanctifying grass
Embellishing evergreens
Killing everything fragile

Kelly Kurt

First Full Day

We made it; right?
Crocuses are blooming
April showers are a month early
Sunset, more reasonably scheduled
Haven't yet seen a robin though

Kelly Kurt

First Impressions (Limerick)

The managers in these environs
Have requisites for all new hire-ons
Candidates be aware
Applicants should press their
Birthday suits with self-esteem irons

Kelly Kurt

First Light (Haiku)

Up early today
Saw my first sunrise in months
We both, tickled pink

Kelly Kurt

Fish

Hidden beneath reflecting waves
They spend both night and day
With the sub aquatic mandate
Be predator or prey

In briny deep or shallow ponds
Variety is rife
Shape, size and color myriad
A festival of life

'Round thermal vents or Arctic ice
Some form has found its niche
For guppy and leviathan
A place is found for each

I'd like to travel far and wide
To see each kind of fish
My favorite place to see them tho
Deep fried and on a dish

Kelly Kurt

Fish (Senryu Series)

Tuna

With mayo on rye
Polluted with mercury
Chicken of the sea

Piranha

Daggered dentition
Amazonian killers
Swim at your own risk

Goldfish

Tiny baked crackers
Temporary household pet
Toilet funerals

Sharks

Lords of the oceans
Four-hundred million years old
Massacred for fins

Catfish

Barbed bottom feeders
I never heard one meow
Internet scammer

Angelfish

Tropical beauties
Aquarium Seraphim
Lively triangles

Manta Ray

Relatives of sharks

Winged underwater fliers
Meek plankton eaters

Eels

Fin deprived swimmers
Predatory cylinders
Amazon shockers

Seahorses

Males carry the young
Chinese impotence treatment
Vertical swimmers

Kelly Kurt

Flame (Haiku)

Breathing and growing
Eating and reproducing
A flame is alive

Kelly Kurt

Flatulence Forte (Limerick)

Music is one of the finer arts
The best reaches the top of the charts
From the high-class to low
(Like a person I know)
Who can play a symphony with farts

Kelly Kurt

Flawed Creation

If we were created by a perfect source
One that's all knowing, all powerful and wise
Then we would be born in an ideal state
So why clip the clitoris and circumcise
The answer, of course, is there was not a plan
There never was an intelligent design
Any rules set forth were written by men
With their own personal agenda in mind
They wished to become like the gods they proposed
And got carried away by all that power
The evolution is clear in all the texts
Complexity seems to grow by the hour
New religions have been born in every age
The premise of their gods all start out the same
Creating all that is seen out of pure love
Then quickly collapsing into the insane
A superior being may still exist
Though no evidence has ever been given
But one thing is certain, without any doubt
It was humans that created religion

Kelly Kurt

Fledgling Thoughts

I've been fed by my mother
I've been kept nice and warm
I've been coddled, now feathered
So it's time to transform
From safe haven to airborne
With a leap of belief
First falling then fluttering
(Much to momma's relief)
I said goodbye to the nest
And goodbye to the tree
I left the verdures behind
It's the azure for me

Kelly Kurt

Flicker

Galaxies collide
To the naked eye, nothing happens
Millions of years
But time is not a matter
Matter is
Time is
Trifling, man
All is about you
Your now
Yourself
I am amongst your numbers
I tell time by seconds
Still, years flash by
Tomorrow will come
The stars will yet burn
Will my heart?
No
Stars will burn out
Matter will decay
I am already consumed
My atoms will be recycled
We can't afford to blink

Kelly Kurt

Flippant (Limerick)

Top rated show there; Jerry Springer
But you haven't heard the humdinger
Bad enough they're not bright
They are so impolite
Their state bird is the middle finger

Kelly Kurt

Flipside (Tanka)

Amidst winter's grip
First meeting of skin and sheet
Braces the body
Mid-slumber's intermission
Seeks cool side of the pillow

Kelly Kurt

Flourishing Weeds (Haiku)

Growing between stones
Unwanted plants multiply
Dog days consequence

Kelly Kurt

Flower Shower

The carpet of violets in a sea of emerald grass
Emitted a delicate bouquet in the mid spring sun
A gentle westerly zephyr conducted it to my nose
Songbirds crooned a romantic refrain
As a damsel fly teased the bluebells
Could this vernal idyll possibly expand?
My introspective inquiry was rejoined
With an unexpected gust
The chubby crabapple tree by the road
Crowded with blushing blossoms
Trembled and liberated a plethora of petals
The sky was a cotton candy confetti carnival
Frolicking and fluttering unpredictably
Polka-dotted the turf like an impressionist painting
The fantastic flower shower cleansed my essence
Decorated my soul
Renewed my spirit

Kelly Kurt

Flurries (Haiku)

One flake here, one there
Slowly whitewashing the old
Awaiting their fate

Kelly Kurt

Flux

First snowfall, rained into submission
Pristine white morphs to mud brown
Beautiful in its own way

Kelly Kurt

Fog (Haiku)

Early morning mist
Hovering uneasily
Awaiting the sun

Kelly Kurt

Followers (Haiku)

Follow the leader
Exercise in ignorance
There are none so blind

Kelly Kurt

Folly (Limerick)

When debating outside of your field
To the erudite a man should yield
To argue without facts
The most foolish of acts
Is how one's ignorance is revealed

Kelly Kurt

Folly (Senryu)

Just half the battle
Recognizing your mistakes
Not learning from them

Kelly Kurt

Food

I like food
I like to smell food
I like to eat food
I have never met a meal I did not like
Oh sure, there are some "treats"
That I would pass on, if not hungry
Liver
Okra
Burning hot peppers
But I like food
The taste
The aroma
The texture
The ritual
Somehow, food made by others tastes better
Even if it is the same recipe as mine
I like food
Meats, fruits, vegetables
Various combinations, hot and cold
Herbs, spices, sauces
Fresh from the oven or leftover
I like food
If heaven does not have food
I'm not going

Kelly Kurt

Force (Haiku)

In physical form
Does not resolve conflict
Quite the opposite

Kelly Kurt

Foreclosed (Limerick)

The exorcist did what he does best
Removing demons at your request
Better settle the bill
Cause you know the drill
If you don't pay, you'll be repossessed

Kelly Kurt

Foreclosed Conclusion (Limerick)

If you wonder how to lose it all
(Next to losing your wife in a mall)
The most certain way yet
To ensure future debt
Borrow from Peter, and not pay Paul

Kelly Kurt

Forgery (Limerick)

It should not take any instruction
For learning the art of seduction
Painted ladies aren't fake
Let's give them a fair shake
They're real, but lead to reproduction

Kelly Kurt

Forgiveness

Mercy and Clemency I understand
Compassion and Lenience are easy
Forgetting is questionable at best
But forgiveness is more complex
The word and concept are vague

It is in our own best interest
Not to linger upon or wallow in
Being held hostage by odium
Prisoner of the past
Banished from the future

But what does it really mean?
Categorical pardon? (Or contingent on remorse)
Freeing the wrongdoer from self-reproach
Even if the wrongdoer is you
The first step toward peace

Kelly Kurt

Forms Of Address (Senryu Series)

Sir

Title of knighthood
Masculine designation
Old age's first sign

Ma'am

Preceded by yes
Polite reply to mother
School marm's epithet

Reverend

Religious claptrap
Dutiful contradiction
Trivial title

General

Please do not kill me
An average hospital
Relativity

Senator

Legislate this, bitch!
How are you still in office
Your voice isn't mine

Mister

Can you spare a dime
How did I whisk the sauce wrong
Prehistoric 'dude'

Pope

A tall, pointed hat

Two-thousand years of buildup
No hope for payoff

Mother

Prime progenitor
The only hope for mankind
Fifth month's honoree

Father

Symbolic title
Bequeathed post copulation
I love my children

Kelly Kurt

Forms Of Poetry (Senryu Series)

Haiku

Laconic nature
Evocative of seasons
Syllabic restraints

Limerick

Driven by rhythm
Steered by humor and rhyming
Crudeness cuts the brakes

Tanka

Pivot in middle
Upper and lower phrases
Haiku plus couplet

Sonnet

Shakespearian poem
Iambic pentameter
Single thought made clear

Ode

Enthusiastic
Sings the praises of substance
Keats revered stoneware

Doggerel

For comic effect
Nursery rhyme specialty
Loosely constructed

Senryu

Short Japanese poem

I take liberties with it
And yet you still read

Kelly Kurt

Forthright (Limerick)

The James gang wanted to rob a bank
Using fake names to disguise their rank
My opinion, Jesse
Is this could get messy
If you won't allow me to be Frank

Kelly Kurt

Fortress

A fortress built from solitude
Serves only to keep me inside
I once wished to be rescued, set free
Parades had passed every day
Not even a second glance
Inside, I seldom think there's more
Than the time that has gelled
And the air, that 'tho stale, still supports
And echoes that bounce without end
So grand it seems
I built this with mortal hands
But if one brick was removed?

Kelly Kurt

Fortune

Fortune shines like a firefly, hidden in the dark
Flitting about randomly
And for a brief second here
And a flickering second there
Illuminating and guiding

Fortune eclipses, like night in a cave
The heaviest of darkness, suffocating
One corner like the next
One moment eternal
Coming from nowhere, going nowhere

Fortune confuses and confounds
Like a child's will
Outrageous, unpredictable
Fortune laughs and cries
Occasionally together

Fortune can be influenced
But not bent to one's will
Fortune can be felt
But is wholly intangible
Fortune influences the world

But fortune is not destiny

Kelly Kurt

Fossil (Tanka)

Mineralized life
Preserved for millions of years
A glimpse of the past
Frozen in the sway of time
Our ancestors speak to us

Kelly Kurt

Free The Soul (Haiku)

Forgive and forget
It is not always easy
But it frees the soul

Kelly Kurt

Fried Egg (Haiku)

Winking eye in pan□
Amorphous without its shell
Until gelled with heat

Kelly Kurt

Friends (Tanka)

A choice has been made
No genetics are involved
Life has hallowed you□
Family often impedes
Comrades always have your back

Kelly Kurt

Friends I've Never Met

Now-a-days, it seems most people have them
Networked to the world at the push of a button
Neighbors become remote
The remote become neighbors
Growing up, I had a few good friends at a time
People I trusted, cared about and socialized with
As life oft dictates, circumstances erratically dispersed
A much larger confederation of associates was even more transitory
One-time friends are still friends, at least in some sense of the word
But today, many have been parted for countless years
New friends add to life's total
Accumulate more deliberately
Last longer
Seem stronger
But also seem fewer
Back to the push of a button
Who would've thought, forty years ago
That good friendships could be made
Held in esteem, Valued
Digitally
I now have good friends I've never met

Kelly Kurt

Frog's Haiku

Frog on lily pad
Staggering its lonesome song
Ribbits a haiku

Kelly Kurt

From Within

To whom should I accredit what I am?
My parents who raised me from birth
My friends, tho few, who've shared with me
The short time I've been here on Earth
Those who lived in ages past
Who influence us yet today
The animals that have not a care
And live just to eat and play
The moon and the stars that endlessly roam
The heavens above, day and night
Words that I've read in the Bible
That bring tears to my eyes upon sight
All of these have inspired me
But none, as much as myself
From within came the me that is today
With, not because of their help

Kelly Kurt

Frozen Ground (Senryu)

Heaved, jagged, solid
Ankles buckle traversing
Tender roots beneath

Kelly Kurt

Fruit (Senryu Series)

Apple

Temptation icon
Do not eat your Macintosh
Medic repellent

Orange

Segmented citrus
Infamously hard to rhyme
Befittingly named

Banana

Hang out in bunches
Botanically a berry
Plural means crazy

Grapes

I'm hungry slave-girl
The classy way to get smashed
Juvenile raisins

Cherry

Abe's fabled victim
Virginity protector
This fruit is the pits

Watermelon

Symbol of summer
Seed spitting competitions
Now made in China

Strawberries

Grace Kelly's hair hue

Sensual dipped in chocolate
Rubicund birthmark

Kelly Kurt

Fruit Flies (Haiku)

Thirty day lifespans□
Many generations plague
Until temperatures drop

Kelly Kurt

Full Belly (Senryu)

Pleasure, discomfort
Celebrated with a nap
Recalled with a belch

Kelly Kurt

Full Of ... (Limerick)

November, the election season
Most incumbents have us all wheezin'
Like a baby, I say
With foul diapers, they
Should be changed (and for the same reason)

Kelly Kurt

Full Of It (Limerick)

His clock café business was booming
The profits were quickly mushrooming
Not a moment's respite
So he needed to quit
It was all just too time consuming

Kelly Kurt

Fundamental Farce (Limerick)

After reading I soon had a frown
The anti-gravity book, I found
Was so entertaining
My brain it was draining
I just could not seem to put it down

Kelly Kurt

Furniture (Senryu Series)

Bed

One third of your life
Rectangular sex cushion
Where flowers are grown

Couch

Psychologist's seat
Potato sanctuary
Husband's punishment

Table

King Arthur's was round
Multiplication helper
Dinner location

Desk

Poets Escritoire
News syndicate division
My lap will suffice

Bookcase

Duster's obstacle
Library ubiquity
Ikea puzzle

Rocking Chair

Mom's baby soother
Grandpa's front porch location
A matchbook might fix

Dresser

Chest for storing clothes

Personal grooming helper
Vinaigrette pourer

Ottoman

Fancy footstool
Transcontinental empire
He fixes my car

Kelly Kurt

Further Separation

Diversity is a wonderful feature
Even amongst the ostensibly identical,
Incalculable rareness resides
Society however, abuses the concept
When struggling with unification
Championing equality and balance
We carelessly widen the rift
Honors are segregated, highlighting division
Sports, theater, music, even the academic
"Black" entertainment awards
Latin Grammys, and myriad others
It would seem bigoted in any place
To hold a 'White' Oscars
Or any 'Caucasian' award show
Just a small obstacle in the objective
But a further separation

I realize that this is a controversial opinion and I look forward to any comments. Being a 'white' man, in the USA, I am certain that I have been conditioned to a degree. I am open minded, tolerant and compassionate, but I recognize that I have never lived one second as any person of a different color, religion, nationality or disability. I fully appreciate the need for events that level the playing field, such as Special and Paralympics, but see no essential condition for segregating otherwise. Yes, the 'Playing field' is not level for many in regards to the insidiousness of small minds, but I think to disconnect from the whole by a self-imposed "segregation" is detrimental to the goal of ideal equality.

Kelly Kurt

Futility

I tried burning the past
It didn't turn to ashes
Just how long will it last?
Bleeding from these gashes
Building for the future
Atop the ghostly remnants
Bound with fetid sutures
Imprisoned by life's sentence
Time has passed so promptly
Tho moments seem eternal
Ends of fait accompli
Enduring the infernal

Kelly Kurt

Futility Fugue

No matter what I do, I'll die
I have known that all along
If there is but a single truth
That cannot be proven wrong
It's that we're born; a special thing
(In-so-far as I can tell)
With an emergent consciousness
And then, hopes and dreams as well
To at one specific moment
Have it all come to an end
The in-between, all meaningless
And powerless to append

Kelly Kurt

Future (Haiku)

Hypothetical
Yet altered with every act
Though ne'er arriving

Kelly Kurt

Future Tense (Limerick)

My swan song is ready to be sung
Ho, no longer preceded by gung
You can ask all my peers
We have been there for years
Growing old is reserved for the young

Kelly Kurt

Gain? (Haiku)

I think my pants shrank
I can't seem to get them on
Did I put on weight?

Kelly Kurt

Garden (Haiku)

Living rectangle
Exchanging food for water
At one with nature

Kelly Kurt

Gender (Haiku)

The differences
Making our lives possible
And pleasurable

Kelly Kurt

General Idea (Limerick)

The story was told to his daughter
Much worse than the war's untold slaughter
To our thirst we would lose
Cause we ran out of booze
And all we had left was some water

Kelly Kurt

Generational Technology

The wonder is lost to those who were born
Any fewer than the thirty years ago
When I was growing up, calculators
With sixteen keys elicited a, Whoa!
Wanting to call from outside of your home
Could only be done if you had a dime
You could not any applications
On your rotary telephone's land-line
Color television existed then
Using antennas on top of your house
But with only five channels on the air
You had to spend time talking to your spouse
When you were bored, you played and ran outside
To keep busy on summer vacations
3D actually meant the real world
Not digital gaming on PlayStations
You listened to music on cassette tapes
With a boom-box as large as a cooler
Now, ten thousand songs are easily stored
On an iPod as thin as a ruler
In thirty years, when generation X
Advances deep into their middle-age
Exponential growth in technology
Will hopefully help them to reengage

Kelly Kurt

Genetic Truth (Tanka)

No races of dogs
Pugs and Danes are one species
Mankind is the same
Our differences are subtler
Yet biases dominate

Kelly Kurt

Genghis Kin (Limerick)

Some brothers are far worse than others
A ratio that's on par with mothers
That is how it will stay
In a relative way
(Unless, of course, we had our druthers)

Kelly Kurt

Geographical Features (Senryu Series)

Mountains

Weather effecters
Transitory through eons
Molehill counterparts

Rivers

Natural borders
Civilization lifelines
Carvers of canyons

Deserts

Inhospitable
Arid wastelands of extremes
Cactus nirvana

Lakes

Source of fresh water
Minnesota's multitude
Fingers of New York

Glaciers

Give birth to icebergs
Close second to most turtles
Endangered species

Volcanoes

Planetary zits
Only virgins will appease
Pompeii's nemesis

Kelly Kurt

Geography Race (Limerick)

Scandinavian borders entwine
Tho my knowledge of them doesn't shine
Is Norway by Sweden?
An atlas I'm needin'
If I want to cross the Finnish line

Kelly Kurt

Geometric Solids (Senryu Series)

Sphere

Nature's perfect form
Three dimensional circle
All points are equal

Cube

Six equal faces
Octahedral symmetry
Need for ice and dice

Cylinder

Chamber for piston
Totally tubular, man
Barrel for bullets

Pyramid

Platonic solid
Old Egyptian edifice
Risky asset scheme

Cone

Evergreen seed pod
Ocular light receptor
Ice cream convenience

Kelly Kurt

Gestures (Senryu Series)

Wave

Hello and goodbye
Energy oscillation
Former naval gal

Shrug

Shoulder fluttering
Signal of indifference
The hell if I know

Nod

Bobble head motion
As good as wink to blind horse
Loose necked approval

Thumbs Up

Hitchhiker's voucher
Gladiator's amnesty
You're out in baseball

Salute

Military hi
For those about to perish
Twenty-one gun praise

Handshake

A way to spread germs
My hand conceals no weapon
Replaced with fist bump

The Finger

Sign of disrespect

Symbolizes a phallus
Up yours, buddy boy

Hug

Bears do it tightly
Affectionately embrace
Sports car road handling

Kiss

Nicest lip service
Death's can sometimes be called sweet
Hershey's chocolate

Bow

Submissive bending
The deeper, the more humble
Yield to the certain

Facepalm

Express frustration
I can't believe I did that
A loud slap highlights

Kelly Kurt

Get The Point? (Limerick)

William Tell's son is chock-full of dread
'Cause of something that his psychic said
Cruel death by an arrow
Predicted by tarot
And he can't get it out of his head

Kelly Kurt

Gift Of Time (Limerick)

Pleasure from the sight of a pheasant
Can be felt by both king and peasant
The happiest I know
Wrap themselves, add a bow
And learn how to enjoy the present

Kelly Kurt

Gist (Limerick)

In-so-far as the way that life goes
It seems likely that nobody knows
There may be some leaning
To what is the meaning
Until found, stay off each other's toes

Kelly Kurt

Give It Away

I longed for happiness
It came not
I wished to be loved
It eluded me
I wanted comfort
None came

Then
I gave these all away
And got more in return

Kelly Kurt

Give It To Me Straight (Limerick)

Hey Doc, I've a medical question
After weeks of nasal congestion
What's it named anyways
After thirty-one days
"It's called a month, in my profession"

Kelly Kurt

Given The Chance

Reaching to other ends through technology

Mideast, Europe, the Orient

Beyond

More one than ever

All hopes, the same

My friends

Kelly Kurt

Glass (Haiku)

Transparent solid
Amorphous matter, fused sand
Holder of cold beer

Kelly Kurt

Gleanings From Wes' Funnies

Beetle Bailey

Mort Walker's private
Sarge beats him to bloody pulp
Out of place Plato

Peanuts

Cheap Psychiatry
Is Marcie a lesbian?
A kite eating tree

Garfield

Orange is the new black
Lasagna at breakfast time
Languor is grueling

Dilbert

Cubicle humor
Outsourcing idiocy
Archetypal boss

The Far Side

We have all been there
Odd is an understatement
One liners worked well

Marmaduke

Loveable Great Dane
Doesn't know how big he is
A great big baby

Kelly Kurt

God Damn Religion

Books

Proven by their existence?

I wrote a book

(Not a best seller)

Illiterate, ignorant ancients

Influence, taken literally

Thousands of variations

At best, just one true

Believers abundant

Harm, immeasurable

The protagonist, a murderous, soulless, egomaniac

The adherents, uninformed victims

The cost, ineffable

Kelly Kurt

Going Up (Limerick) Inspired By Wes Vogler

My penthouse is on the tenth floor
A psychiatrist waits by the door
Six buttons on the lift
But I have a gift
Going where no man has been before

Kelly Kurt

Gold (Haiku)

Conceited metal
Prized, plundered, purchased with blood
Just a shiny rock

Kelly Kurt

Good Intent? (Haiku)

Wanting to do right
In absence of performing
Paves the road to hell

Kelly Kurt

Good Luck (Senryu Series)

Four Leaf Clover

Ten-thousand to one
Symmetrical highway ramps
4H club emblem

Rabbit's Foot

Gambler's confidence
Disastrous for the bunny
Keychain amulet

The Number Seven

Hot roll shooting craps
Holy book superstitions
Buddha's steps at birth

Wishbone

Turkey clavicles
Thanksgiving Day tug-of-war
Full football backfield

Shooting Star

Hurry up, make a wish
Or was that a UFO
Perhaps Clint Eastwood

Knock On Wood

Avoid tempting fate
Invoke the tree deities
Checking for termites

Horseshoe

Face up to catch luck
Held in place with seven nails
Size eleven please

Crossed Fingers

Christian hand gesture
Invalidates a promise
Hard way to pick nose

Kelly Kurt

Goodbye Old Friend

Turn of the century edifice
Stories of stories to tell
I worked to try to save you
But this afternoon you fell
Your face, I painted beautifully
Your heart, I tried to mend
But all things of brick and mortar
Eventually must end
I can no longer stand inside you
In my life there's now a cavity
It seems that even the best of us
With age, succumbs to gravity

Kelly Kurt

Goosebumps (Tanka)

Ancestral vestige
Hair stands erect on impulse
Warm air is entrapped
Response to excessive fear
Reaction to arousal

Kelly Kurt

Gourd Dog (Limerick)

Desert honeydew farm was sheer folly
Its failure left Blue less than jolly
He cannot be cheered up
Cause this downhearted pup
Is a Mojave Melon Collie

Kelly Kurt

Government (Senryu Series)

President

Slyly elected
Influential figurehead
Rarely laudable

Bipartisanship

Two major parties
Both want it done their way
Powerful toddlers

Congress

Representatives
At least that's what they tell us
For whom do they act?

Senate

Two from every state
No matter population
Protracted tenures

Constitution

Centuries old text
Diverse interpretations
Requires updating

Supreme Court

Appointed minions
Nine separate opinions
For straightforward laws

Elections

Voice of the people

If the people have money
Choose from our options

Quid Pro Quo

Just part of the game
Only the elite can play
Pay up or shut up

Politics

Rules do not apply
Misleading sincerity
Ego, not service

Kelly Kurt

Gradation's Relation (Tanka)

Possibility

The chance cannot be ruled out

Probability

The chance is somewhat likely

Second cousins, twice removed

Kelly Kurt

Grass (Haiku)

Jade blades in summer
Sleeping onyx through winter
Jewels on bare feet

Kelly Kurt

Grasshoppers

The old, pea-graveled alley behind the church
Over-grown with grasses and weeds
Came alive today
Chain reactions of bounding chaos
One camouflaged cricket cousin would spring
Landing among his brethren, setting them to leap
Cascading north and south, east and west
Like popcorn in a skillet, the motion swelled, then subsided
The seven year old in me couldn't resist
I waded carefully into the swarm
Mindful of where I stepped
Intent on triggering a riot, and securing a slowpoke
The alley erupted in anarchy as I snatched for my prize
Pelted from my waist down by the panicked pouncers
A few, clinging to my clothing
Quickly, I placed my palm over the one on my hip
Enfolding it gently into my hand
Just as I remembered from my childhood days
The anxious insect was strong
Tickling my palm as it tried in vain to escape
I held it for only a few seconds
Those seconds took me back fifty years
As I opened my hand, the grasshopper immediately sprang
Landing almost ten feet and five decades away

Kelly Kurt

Gravity

Space-time curvature
Inversely proportional to distance squared
Law of attraction
Product of masses equivalently shared
Weakest of forces
Sub-atomic particles scarcely show it
But in the macro world
If a car's on your foot, you know it
To unify all nature
Scientists still continue to grapple
Super strings, scalar fields
All evolving from Isaac Newton's apple

Kelly Kurt

Gravity (Haiku)

Of unknown origin
Binding dust into planets
Keeping us grounded

Kelly Kurt

Greek And Roman Gods (Senryu Series)

Zeus - Jupiter

King of all the gods
Busy making lots of kids
Enthralled with lightning

Aphrodite - Venus

Sculptor's favorite
Beauty and love archetype
Seldom wore a shirt

Poseidon - Neptune

Submerged deity
Trident transporting titans
These guys are all wet

Ares - Mars

War enthusiasts
Sucker for a pretty face
Red in the night sky

Hades - Pluto

Underworld bosses
No one back then had razors
Produced no offspring

Dionysus - Bacchus

I will drink to that
Really knew how to party
Made Midas mournful

Eros - Cupid

Had wings but no pants

Icons of Valentine's Day
Mind your own business!

Kelly Kurt

Grocery Store Sections (Senryu Series)

Butcher

Wielding a cleaver
Providing for carnivores
A vegan's nightmare

Dairy

All milk, no honey
How does sour cream go bad?
Now smile and say cheese

Produce

Eat your vegetables
From apples to zucchini
Nature's vitamins

Deli

Pricey convenience
Sliced pastrami by the pound
New in India?

Liquor

Volumes of vodka
No hundred year old wine here
But plenty of beer

Bakery

The smell of fresh bread
Day old donuts at half price
Calorie central

Sundries

Personal hygiene

Paper plates and plastic forks
Miscellanea

Dry Goods

Dried beans, rice and flour
No refrigeration needs
Stock up the pantry

Frozen Foods

Pizza and desserts
TV dinners and ice-cream
Bachelor's basic

Kelly Kurt

Groin Pains (Limerick)

The thirteen year old playing hop-scotch
Took a lady sized shoe to the crotch
The buxom passer-by
Caught more than his eye
(He asked her to play so he could watch)

Kelly Kurt

Grow

Conceal yourself no more
Admit that you're in a qualm
You fought well, but why?
Isn't it clear?
No?
For years you kept to yourself
Afraid or aloof
Depriving others of your insight
Of course you felt alone!
By your doing, you kept them out
It's easy, just take it slow
No need to hurry
A little at a time
Some may laugh
To them, laugh back
It is their loss
Feel it grow?
The hole is filling
We all grow

Kelly Kurt

Growth

For the first ninety-nine percent of human existence, Earth was the center
Five planets, beside our own, visible to the naked eye
Uranus, the first aided addition
Pluto doubled our system's scope
Our galaxy stretches One hundred thousand light years across
One hundred-twenty-eight million times as large
More than realistic imagination can fathom
A Cepheid variable changed the scale further
Our universe, now full of galaxies
One hundred-forty thousand times more expansive
Expanding still, and at an increasing rate
Once, an infinite energy, a singular point

Kelly Kurt

Growth In Absence

Thousands of seeds collected in autumn
Some as small as the finest sand
Carefully, lovingly, hopefully germinated
One by one, in the depths of winter
Fine filaments, pale and fragile
Sprout leaves in the slowness of anticipation
Avidly, vigilantly, hourly scrutinized
By March, they are still only an inch tall
April has added leaves but little stature
The sun hallows May's window sill
But my flowers are no more than gangling pygmies
Transplanted in June they grow steadily outdoors
But an ever watchful eye nonetheless overlooks daily progress
As July's steamy heat peaks, I have to leave
Two weeks of the best summer can offer
Replace my presence in the gardens
Arriving back, shortly before sunset
The warm glow of our blood-orange star
Reveals what seems to be ridiculous growth
Three, perhaps four times as large as when I left
More blooms than I could count in hours
Maybe I should leave more often

Kelly Kurt

Guilt

It happens
Something went wrong
Once in a lifetime
For many, much more often
Forgiveness is not too rare
Accepting it is
Imperfect from birth
Mistakes will be made
Mistakes?
Constant twinges charge
Conscience, remorse, pain
The price paid

Kelly Kurt

H.E.L.P.

Heal me, if you have the ability
Enlighten me if you have the power
Listen to me if you truly care
Pardon me if you understand

Kelly Kurt

H2 Oh! (Limerick)

After trying my first little bit
Of what doctors say will keep me fit
My doubts have been erased
Now that I've had a taste
I don't think I could live without it

Kelly Kurt

Habit

No deviation from the routine
Addicted to convention
Swimming in a puddle, so obscene
It reeks of one dimension
A thoughtless approach to lead one's life
With no imagination
Submissive slide down a dull edged knife
Concludes in soul stagnation

Kelly Kurt

Haiku (Haiku)

Wisdom and insight
Just seventeen syllables
Open up one's mind

Kelly Kurt

Hail.

Tumbling thunderstone trinket Tossed in turbulence
Icy inches increase
Growing greater girth, getting gigantic
Plummeting perilously, pelting people
Crushing crops, crunching cars, causing calamity
Melting in mere moments
Leaving liquid, lumps and losses as a legacy

Kelly Kurt

Hair - Haiku (Some Assembly Required)

Line 1 choices:

- * Various colors
- * Pride of the lion
- * A fashion statement

Line 2 choices:

- * Curly, kinky or silky
- * Indication of status
- * Embellishment for the pate

Line 3 choices:

- * Bald is the new craze
- * Gracefully flowing
- * Ruffled by the wind

Now just pick and choose
Make your very own Haikus
You've nothing to lose

Kelly Kurt

Hairstyles (Senryu Series)

Afro

Natural comb-out
Picked into large, rounded ball
Curly and kinky

Pigtails

Symmetrical braids
Stuck in inkwells by schoolboys
The rear ends of swine

Mohawk

Non-conformity
Member of the Iroquois
Strip down the middle

Beehive

Nineteen-sixties kitsch
Large rounded cone piled upwards
Where honey is made

Buzz Cut

Low maintenance do
Given by drunken barber?
Armed forces coiffure

Mullet

Short front, long in back
Iran's forbidden haircut
Important food fish

Pageboy

Unisex haircut

Modified bob cut with bangs
Servant to a knight

Dreadlocks

Matted ropes of hair
Multicultural statement
Do not need a key

Comb-over

Who are you fooling?
Balding men's cheap camouflage
Methodically search

Kelly Kurt

Half Lie, Half Truth?

I'm pleased to meet you
I'll get to it as soon as I can
No, you're not interrupting anything
You look nice today
What is the difference between a half truth
And a half lie?
Intent

Kelly Kurt

Half-Cocked (Tanka)

A loaded weapon
Some of the rounds live, some blanks
Random insertion
How and when should it be used?
Should it even be carried?

Kelly Kurt

Hangover (Tanka)

Payment for pleasure
Light lands on head like hammers
Belly mutinies
Aching brain makes promises
Never again lasts one night

Kelly Kurt

Happiness, Fate, Work And Fear

If happiness is all I need
Then I'll let laughter be my creed
Smiles are all I want from life
I want no hate, no worry or strife
My neighbors I will fill with cheer
And keep them happy throughout the year
For who can smile while fighting back a tear?

If fate is my one driving force
Then destiny is mine of course
I'll need not fight or work or strive
I certainly will still be alive
'Til what I am to do is done
But 'til that time I'll have no fun
For who can cheer when the battle's not yet won?

If work is what's to get me through
Then work and work is what I'll do
I'll sweat and strain to reach each goal
And not let failures take their toll
Success is all I will strive for
So when I'm done, I'll work some more
For who can rest when it's work they adore?

If fear should dominate my days
I won't be free to go my ways
To seek a life I want to live
Or give the love I want to give
I'll live a life of constant threat
And not feel safe to take a breath
For who can breathe when he's scared to death?

If life is all these things my dear
Like happiness. Fate work and fear
Then who's to say which path you'll choose
Or if you'll win, or if you'll lose
Or if the path you choose is one
Of the best beneath the sun
For who but you knows this, my son?

Kelly Kurt

Happy (Senryu Series)

Chipper

A lilt in your step
Humming an upbeat ditty
Shredder's gruesome pal

Ecstatic

Above and beyond
Joy's ultimate expression
Can't take for too long

Glad

Perhaps just relieved
Just a step above content
Insincere handshake

Jolly

British for very
Santa's personality
Roger's pirate flag

Tickled Pink

Exhilarated
That's actually a rash
The next hue is blue

Pleased

Pure satisfaction
Puppet Punch's persona
Elicits thank yous

Thrilled

Wholly overjoyed

Filled with intense excitement
My heart can't take it^^^ - - -

On Cloud Nine

In seventh heaven?
A state of euphoria
Cumulonimbus

Kelly Kurt

Happy 86th, Wes (Limerick)

How does one get to such a ripe age
He must be experienced and sage
His limericks entertain
Both funny bone and brain
Who let this caveman out of his cage

Kelly Kurt

Hard

Switching places

Being there

Been there

So close□

Miles away

Decades, instant

How often seen?

One way

Not the first, not the last

Good luck

I will never know

Kelly Kurt

Hard Boiled (Limerick)

If you put raw eggs in cold water
And then proceed to make it hotter
The innards will congeal
To an ovoid meal
Making egg-salad after their slaughter

Kelly Kurt

Hard Work (Limerick)

How does farmer Smith get such a yield?
What secret does his intellect wield?
I can answer that one
But please pardon my pun
He's just not out standing in his field

Kelly Kurt

Hate

How do people do it?
Harboring this insidious emotion
Releasing it wholesale on innocents
Once, fleetingly, I felt its influence
Betrayed and destroyed, I seethed
I hated my malefactor doubly
For the treachery and subjecting me to this feeling
My essence blackened, descended
Draining integrity and vitality
The shadow of odium terrified me
The few seconds of wrath seemed like an eon
I couldn't abide the feeling any longer
Forgiving set me free
Never, never again to bear that heaviness
How do haters live with themselves?
The burden of it, choking
I feel sad for them

Kelly Kurt

Hats (Senryu Series)

Ten Gallon

Oversized Stetson
Exaggerated volume
Five months' worth of milk

Baseball Cap

Shades the eyes from glare
Team's logo displayed on front
Worn backwards by youth

Mortarboard

Graduate's swagger
Tassel moved upon passage
Mason's cement hod

Crown

Royal diadem
Jewel encrusted symbol
Jack fell and broke his

Ski Mask

Winter protection
Fends frostbite from fragile face
Burglar's camouflage

Nightcap

Long winter's nap prop
Cozy conical cover
Liquid sleeping pill

Sombrero

Siesta sunshade

Mexican hat dance center
Circumference king

Beret

Flat, woolen French cap
Flamboyant beatnik bonnet
Marine's green topper

Dunce Cap

Worn in a corner
Dullard's donned discomfiture
Completes my wardrobe

Yarmulke

Worn in synagogue
Orthodox Jewish skullcap
Bantam black beanie

Fez

Tasseled Turkish top
Once Morocco's capitol
Seventies show kid

Turban

Common among Sikhs
Suleiman's was enormous
Not a mummy's hat

Kelly Kurt

Head Of A Pin

It could happen at any time
In the distant past, a bottleneck
Ten thousand pairs sustained
Exponential growth bolstered
Dark Age plagues reduced harshly
Warring through time degraded
Button push now could purge
Annihilations of species have been environmental
Ice ages, volcanism, impact winters
Average extinction rates for mammals is fleeting
In geological time
As little as one million years
No species has yet been responsible for its own demise
Natural selection has enhanced
A comet could strike
Super volcanoes could obliterate
But I could win the lottery too
Eventually, the sun will consume
By then, either we will have grown up, wised up
Spread throughout the galaxy
Or destroyed ourselves long before
Whether incrementally, selfishly, devastating our environment
Or in one fell swoop, a maniacal conflagration
If self-inflicted, the Earth will be better off
Rid of a provisional parasite
It is up to us
Now

Kelly Kurt

Heartburn (Haiku)

Was it the chili?
Vesuvius erupting
Internal revenge

Kelly Kurt

Heaven (Tanka)

Earned Utopia
Everlasting ecstasy
Virtue rewarded
In the warm embrace of God
Or the arms of a lover□

Kelly Kurt

Heavenly River (Haiku)

Rising Milky Way
Unobstructed spectacle
Countless points of light

Kelly Kurt

Heavy Pedaler (Limerick)

At the velodrome, here's what I do
To make sure the management won't sue
Can't leave ruts in their track
And since svelteness I lack
I ride a bicycle built for two

Kelly Kurt

Hell (Tanka)

Fiery Abyss

Everlasting damnation

Ultimate sentence

Recompensed in Perdition

Or private, lifelong regret

Kelly Kurt

Hereditary Opinions

One state, two state
Red state, blue state
Ideology confined by borders
Left wing, right wing
Out of sight thing
Position held through domestic orders

Kelly Kurt

Hertz, Doesn't It? (Senryu)

Political speak

Fingernails on a chalkboard

Dissonance, painful

Kelly Kurt

Hi Jean (Limerick)

Despite reports to the contrary
Choosing the right fork can be scary
Watch the host closely and
Use the one in her hand
Lest you think it unsanitary

Kelly Kurt

Hibernal Augury

November night chills
Intense cold is yet to come
Just a faint hoar forms
Brief forays produce shivers
As memories are evoked

Kelly Kurt

His Scent (Tanka)

Young boy sneaks in room
Lies down on his father's bed
Familiar smell soothes
Sweat imbued linens embrace
Comforting in his absence

Kelly Kurt

History (Tanka)

Written by victors
Biased and ornamented
Not truth, not fiction
His story and his story
Seldom the exact story

Kelly Kurt

History Lessen (Limerick)

"Stop the assault! " the officer cried
"This invasion I cannot abide
Tho orders have come down
I am more than their clown
This has failed all the times it's been tried"

Kelly Kurt

Hobbies (Senryu Series)

Bonsai

Miniature trees
Pruning of branches and roots
A shared existence

Coins

Starting with pennies
Collecting rare specimens
More than face value

Cooking

Culinary arts
Gastronomic indulgence
Seldom leftovers

Fishing

Night crawlers and lures
Leisurely outdoor pastime
Catch a compliment

Gardening

Get your hands dirty
Flowers and vegetables
It will grow on you

Origami

Paper folding art
Popular time honored crane
Contortionist's fad?

Painting

Canvas on easel

Pollock merely made a mess
Started with cavemen

Reading

Perusing penned print
Research or relaxation
Pass my glasses please

Travel

Some join the navy
Journeys start with a first step
Frequent flier miles

Weightlifting

Oddly relaxing
Muscle building exercise
Am I a dumbbell?

Writing

Thoughts given presence
Composer's self-expression
Passionate release

Kelly Kurt

Holidays (Senryu Series)

New Year's Eve

End and beginning
Anticipated countdown
Arbitrary date

Valentine's Day

Force fed holiday
Gangsters and hearts massacred
Gas station bouquets

St. Patrick's Day

Ubiquitous green
Erin go bragh round the world
Corned beef and cabbage

Mother's Day

Breakfast served in bed
M is for the million things
Is one day enough?

Independence Day

Firework injuries
Celebrating illusion
Work comes to a halt

Halloween

Extorting candy
Girls' costumes are all 'sexy'
Disemboweled pumpkins

Thanksgiving

Cranberries' big day

Gratitude, food and football
Don't invite Uncle Sam

Christmas

White ones dreamed about
Sainted commercialism
July antipode

Kelly Kurt

Home To Roost (Limerick)

The pet store's jam packed aviary
Could not hold another canary
Since they could not alight
A sign said, for one night
Free birds, no perches necessary

Kelly Kurt

Homeless Man

Having been homeless myself for just a few months
Not that very long ago
I could understand to some small degree
The disheveled homeless man, staggering in the parking lot
I had nothing to give but my time and said hello
He told me his name was Jim, but I don't think he was sure
The track marks on his arms were too many to count
His breath could have been ignited
What teeth remained were cracked and brown
His voice was strained, gravelly and forlorn
I could only make out a few words here and there
But I nodded and smiled when I assumed appropriate
I could tell that he was disappointed that I couldn't get him more to drink
Or give him any money for meth
However, I could see a bit of a gleam in his eyes
One that wasn't there when we first met

Kelly Kurt

Homo Electus (Limerick)

These are the extent of your choices
People who can afford Rolls Royces
All owned by big business
Political Christmas
Only the one percent rejoices

Kelly Kurt

Homophone (Limerick)

A stag and a doe from near Nome
Lived in an igloo, shaped like a dome
Each weekday at five
After work, he'd arrive
Shouting loudly, "Hello deer, I'm home."

Kelly Kurt

Honey Haiku)

<>

Viscous bee vomit
Pet name for a paramour
Color of her locks

Kelly Kurt

Hope For Sisyphus (Limerick)

Even the most hell bent and clever
Have yet to complete this endeavor
It's a matter of time
And a logical prime
No one cannot not toil forever

Kelly Kurt

Horsefly

How can something so small make so much noise?
Iridescent wings beating at a rate that make hummingbirds jealous
Snaking a circuitous course through the room
Settling randomly but only for an instant
The eye can't follow as it drones off again
I have to wonder about its intentions
Is it searching for food or a mate? □
Is it looking for a way out?
How did it get in?
Hours on end it hums and whines
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Incessant buzzing
Thursday, there came a silence
It was gone, or dead
The room seems so silent and lonely

Kelly Kurt

Household Chores (Senryu Series)

Dishes

Whose turn is it now?
I am just letting them soak
Let's go out to eat

Laundry

Separate the whites
Machines do all of the work
Disappearing socks

Cleaning the Toilet

You need better aim
If you keep missing the mark
I'll use your toothbrush

Vacuuming

Just plug in and push
An answer to the question
"Do you know what sucks? "

Dusting

You know it is time
When you can write "please clean me."
Across your bookshelves

Washing Windows

For a streak free look
Buy an expensive squeegee
And employ a maid

Take Out the Garbage

It's starting to smell
No more will fit in the bag

I'm not talking trash

Mow the Lawn

Suburban routine

Summer weekend ritual

That's what kids are for

Kelly Kurt

Housework

To some, the idea of cleaning is enjoyable
The expectation, exhilarating
Others dread the prospect, delay it
I am one of the latter
The kitchen needed scrubbing for weeks
The sinks were dull, counters cluttered
Floors were dusty and mottled
Cobwebs laced corners
Every tomorrow was the plan since last month
I don't know how or why
But today was the day
It started slowly
As I made morning coffee, I subtly prepared
Broom and mop were disinterred and laid out
Cleansers and rags put in clear sight
On the third excursion into the kitchen
I started
Top to bottom, left to right
Less than two hours
Oh, it looks and smells nice!
It wasn't backbreaking and didn't take all day
I feel triumphant... Relieved
Proud?
I am not looking forward to doing it again though

Kelly Kurt

How Cold Is It? (Limerick)

At first, the congressman would mock it
Then tried hard as he could to block it
Anti-lobbyist bill
On the hill brought a chill
His hands are now in his own pocket

Kelly Kurt

How Few The Lives

How few the lives fame doth touch
Or history recalls
It matters not, a place in a book
Or a monument on sacred ground
Everyone leaves a mark
Recorded in hearts blood
Good or bad
Great or small
For at least one generation
A few shall recall
That we were
How few the lives that shoulder that onus
With grace, humility and respect
How few the lives that consciously leave a legacy
Of memory to cherish
Not rue
How few the lives of those now gone
Are held in such regard
As to say they left a heritage
For those who remain

Kelly Kurt

How To Celebrate (An Entirely Factual Work Of Fiction)

I remember the time when my great, great grandfather and I celebrated North Pole Independence Day. Stop me if you've heard this before.

Our camels were in the shop getting their hooves rotated so we tunneled to China for fireworks. The crazy old bastard packed popcorn in his knapsack and as we passed through the molten core of the Earth, it popped. Needless to say, we both were terminally injured by projectile husks. Four hours and sixteen teaspoons of anti-dying-of-being-riddled-with-popcorn-husks syrup later, we arrived, but not in China. Fortunately we came out in a Mexican explosives factory. After gathering sufficient aerial bombs, and getting tattoos to commemorate the occasion, we emptied our bladders and force fed cattle to the el chupacabra. Being thankful for sating its blood lust, the beast gave us a rickshaw ride to Poland where we caught the first sled dog trip to Santa's house. The old coot was in Thailand doing some post-op hooker in a stupa so we raided his liquor cabinet and built about three dozen snowmen. At exactly ten minutes to two p.m. we fired off our booty to celebrate the 763rd anniversary of the day that the elves, led by Herbie, the wannabe dentist, took the North Pole back from Canadian extremist refrigerator salesmen.

It was getting late, but as it was summer, the sun never set, so we kayaked to Mt. Everest to build a Denny's above camp 4 in the "death zone." Now this was back in the day when oxygen wasn't yet invented, so we had to use nuclear power to heat the grand slam meals. Suddenly, a Yeti, whose ancestors were among the defeated Canadian salesmen, launched a drone attack. Without any hesitation, Gramps pulled out the last firework he had saved under his wrinkled man boobs. It was the big Bertha. Six kilotons of fiery festivity. Lighting it with a satanic incantation, he shot down the drone, which spiraled into a pasture below, injuring a yak. The yeti, a coward as they are, surrendered, and was sent to France to learn mime.

Three weeks later, we were awarded the imaginary medal of outstanding stupidity by a flock of horned puffins. My mother, who wasn't yet born, cried and bragged to neighborhood fire hydrants of her son's intrepidity. A statue was erected below the corner of Findlay Street and Ludlow Avenue (Which don't intersect.) in Cincinnati and I was given a pre-posthumous certificate of appreciation by Jerry Springer.

Every year since, North Pole Independence Day has been celebrated in concurrence with whatever it is they call the crap gramps and I did that fateful day forty years from now.

Except for maybe only six or seven other times, that was the best celebration that year.

The end.

Kelly Kurt

Hubris (Limerick)

You'd think there was more than enough time
It's eternal, consistent, sublime
On our side, there's no doubt
But the sun will burn out
Just like me, it is passing its prime

Kelly Kurt

Hug (Haiku)

Two distinct people
Coalesce into oneness
Exchanging body heat

Kelly Kurt

Human (Haiku)

So you've made mistakes
That only proves you're human
Not a fatal thing

Kelly Kurt

Human Capacity (Limerick)

When I am asked just what I endorse
My reply is, "Love, sans being forced"
There's no reason to cite
An edict to do right
We do not need a spiritual source

Kelly Kurt

Humanism

I may never reach even one person
That is not a reason not to try
It takes more than you know
I care about truth, about knowledge
About trying to know
So I am the one who is deluded
My humanity is stripped
I cannot be moral, trusted...saved
Just because I truly care
Aids must, and can be eliminated
Condoms are not evil
Stem cells can heal
Women are equal
Gays are equal
All are equal
Except in rationality

Kelly Kurt

Humblebrag (Limerick)

I try with all my ability
Maintaining tact and civility
To describe my own brain
It's too hard to restrain
Despite my profound humility

Kelly Kurt

Humidity (Haiku)

Viscous atmosphere
Saturates the pervious
Dampens the spirit

Kelly Kurt

Humidity 2 (Haiku)

Marinated air
Gripping every inch of flesh
Making foreheads cry

Kelly Kurt

Humility (Haiku)

The greatest of rocks
Against just wind, rain and time
Always becomes sand

Kelly Kurt

Humor (Haiku)

Mysterious trait
Alleviates gloominess
More safely than drugs

Kelly Kurt

Hunger (The Real Thing)

Many people take it for granted when they say
"I'm starved."

It may have been ten hours or more
Since their last meal
And their stomachs may no doubt growl
But millions feel hunger at a higher level
Muscles wasting, abdomen distended
Chronic, engulfing pain

When that twinge Occurs
When you feel peckish
Just before uttering that phrase
Think
Thank
And eat those words
You know not of hunger

Kelly Kurt

Hydrogen (Haiku)

Singular proton
Circled by one electron
The basis of life

Kelly Kurt

Hydrogen 2 (Haiku)

Proton, electron
Genesis of all water
Pro rata foremost

Kelly Kurt

Hyperbole

Everywhere is a lot of wheres
In fact, it's all of them
The same holds true with everything
So what's the huge problem?
Always, implies eternally
Never, does quite the same
Less precise than superlatives
Is everyone to blame?

Kelly Kurt

Hyperbolic Utterances (Senryu Series)

Everything

That's a lot of things
Don't forget the kitchen sink
The whole ball of wax

Never

Better check again
Aren't you forgetting something?
Time's not over yet

Always

That is what she said
How can that possibly be?
Omnitemporal

Older Than the Hills

I feel that way now
Those hills used to be mountains
Watch it sonny boy!

Tons of Money

Standard or metric?
Yeah, but is it all pennies?
Or the English pound

Big as a House

That's not very nice
Unless it is a doll house
And so's your mama

I Could Eat a Horse

It would take a year

Maybe a Shetland pony
Go to Taco Bell

I've Told You a Million Times

Why won't you listen?
Every minute for two years
Tactics need to change

My Wife's Going to Kill Me

Won't be the first time
She can and has done far worse
Just please make it quick

I Worked My Fingers to the Bone

Said the skeleton
Maybe you should have worn gloves
Saves on manicures

Middle of Nowhere

I took a wrong turn
You cannot get there from here
At least it's quiet

Kelly Kurt

Hypocrisy (Limerick)

A frivolous old Bishop from Rome
Spent a million to spruce up his home
Every Sunday at eight
He'd pass around the plate
After preaching prudence from his tome

Kelly Kurt

I Am An Echo

I am an echo
Overtaken by vibrations long ago created
Words and deeds resonated from the past
My present memory
A confluence in harmonic singularity
I am an echo
All that I am is all that I've been
My future self is an expectation of all echoes
Past, present and to be
I reverberate even now, sending forth echoes
To catch up and overtake myself
In every future
An echo, once started, propagates unidirectionally
Forward
Tomorrow exists today, for an echo
Ten years from now exists today, for an echo
I am an echo
Helping to create my future self
With every present moment
Themselves influenced by every past's echo

Kelly Kurt

I Can Promise Only This

You can ask anything of me and I will attempt
You can tell me to smile, when grief is my shadow
You can stick me with pins and require my stillness
Take all my possessions and demand more
You can mandate the improbable and I will comply
But I can promise only this
To do my best

Kelly Kurt

I Do-Doo (Limerick)

Tis better to expire by the knife
Than endure a cacophonous life
That is the penalty
Sentence for bigamy
The price for having more than one wife

Kelly Kurt

I Don't Know, Maybe Just Nothing But It Rhymes (Limerick)

In fantasy all is credible
The whole world is wholly edible
The foulest of cheese
Is eaten with ease
Even if it is unspreadable

Kelly Kurt

I Don't Know

I have researched the most profound
Asked questions all have pondered
Considered the evidence of experts
Examined my own inner desires
Overruled the patently ridiculous
Assessed the reasonable possibilities
No delusion has convinced
Before I was; I wasn't
After I'm no longer
I won't again
Little comfort in reality
No wonder why faith is soothing, traditional
If truth matters
Just say the three words
They don't force insecurities into precepts
No inferred certainties
They leave doors open
Do you know?
I don't

Kelly Kurt

I Felt It

The snow on my shoes melted
Now, my socks, feet and toes were wet
It had been colder☐
But today, I felt it!
Ignored in the past, knowing it wouldn't last
I shrugged off such things
But today I shivered
I felt it
I wanted it to end
A few more steps and I would be inside
But as I reached the door
I paused
Only four months ago I sweltered
Leaves shuddered in hot breezes
In this same spot, I saw the heat rise in waves
Now, white was the uniform
Seven steps into the yard
I made a snow angel
The snow angel made me
For that moment
Cold as the North, I came inside
It took a while
But I warmed up
I felt it all

Kelly Kurt

I Forget

Thinking about
Feeling
Recalling times
I forget
The instances
The spirit
The mindset
Sensation
Emotion disperses
Ambience evaporates
Facts remain
A subtle cue
Happenings morph
To tales of tales
A story read?
An anecdote heard?
A movie watched?
Dreamlike, artificial
Recollection mocks
Tantalizes, manipulates
The periodic chart
I committed
The human bones
I memorized
Fifty some years of facts
Infused indelibly
But I forget experiences
I forget!

Kelly Kurt

I Forgot To Breathe

The stereo was on as I sat down to write
I had more ideas than in the last five days combined
After just a few clumsy pecks on the keyboard
A song from my youth came on
My fingers came to an abrupt halt
As the melody and lyrics transfixed me
Time stood still
No, it was in retrograde
I don't remember anything else
Except, as it ended, I roused with a gasp
I forgot to breathe

Kelly Kurt

I Found A Poem

I considered the sunset
While listening to the whitecaps
And thinking of home
I found a poem

Kelly Kurt

I Of The Beholder (Limerick)

How do you go out looking like that?
Dressing just like a disheveled rat
With that scraggly grey beard
Making you look real weird
And you're hopelessly ugly and fat

Your hair style makes you look like you've quit
A skunk tail perched atop a big zit
Then they say; "If you care
Take a look over there
It's called a mirror; look into it."

Kelly Kurt

I Reckon (Limerick)

I thought six kids were all that you had
Why say ten, are you drunk, are you mad?
After drinking a cup
I rounded them up
(The approximate job of a dad)

Kelly Kurt

I Was Wrong

Part of a conversation, I spoke
My point, I thought, was valid
Politely, I was allowed to finish
When it was my turn to listen
A coherent rebuttal was offered
Evidence was provided, experts cited
A check of internet sources confirmed
I was not just mistaken, I was wrong
Embarrassment surfaced, but was fleeting
Quickly replaced with gratitude
I learned, I grew

Kelly Kurt

I, Eremite

Living under a rock like a bug
Venturing out only if disturbed
Quickly returning to darkness
And comfort of isolation

Swimming at depth, solo
Compression subduing lungs
Surfacing only to gasp
Returning to nadir

Oh, to occupy a nameless cave
On the most remote planet
In the furthest galaxy
Preferably in another universe

Not my destiny at birth
Nor my first choice as a man
It chose, and embraced me
I simply submitted

Kelly Kurt

I?

I cannot take it seriously
Consciousness, objective reality
Locality, temporality
All created in a lump of flesh
Unique frame of reference
Electromagnetic waves become color
Nerve impulses, thought
A pill here, it changes
A snip there, it vanishes

Kelly Kurt

Ice (Haiku)

A threat in winter
The streets become dangerous
My drinks watered down.

Kelly Kurt

Icicles (Haiku)

Accreted phase shift
Reflecting and refracting
Serrating the eaves

Kelly Kurt

If It Was A Book

If my life was a book
It would be on a shelf
In a cobwebbed library
The jacket, long disintegrated
The cover, faded and stained
Two chapters, titled
Before and After
The solitary reader
Time

Kelly Kurt

If Then

If then the stars should fall
Who would speak your name?
If then the universe should collapse
Who would hold your hand?
If then time should end
Who would remember your smile?
If then oblivion
Who?
I

Kelly Kurt

Ignorance And Arrogance

What marvels are we, taming our surroundings
Unquestionably superior to all life
Mocking the mindsets of medieval civilizations
Scoffing at any extraterrestrial incursion
Confident that we know what we're doing to this planet
The Earth is no longer deemed the center of the Cosmos
But only for a few hundred years
Half an eye blink of time from the trees
Still violent, mindless, instinctual animals
Ridiculously puny, fetal
Few species alive as fledgling
This universe, 13.72 billion years old
And this is only what we call the year 2015
Two hundred-thousand years old as a species
Yet industrialization is barely a century old
The technology age, a mere few decades
The world, run by believers in Bronze Age myths
Divided into clans, tribes, packs
Still warring instead of cooperating
Spending the lion's share on military
Shallow pursuits and interests
Worshipping actors and athletes
Idolizing money
Rampant consumerism
Political corruption and incompetence
Waste, selfishness, entitlement, conceit
Should we somehow persevere another two-hundred years
Let alone two-hundred thousand or more
Our descendants will look upon us as we do cavemen
Superstitious, primitive, irresponsible beasts
Unable to control our brains
Unwilling to be rational
Squandering the rarity of consciousness

Kelly Kurt

Ill Conceived Judgments

If you can be convinced to accept absurdities
You can be convinced to commit atrocities
If you're waiting for something better to come
You will waste all the time you have now
If you are convinced you hold the moral high
You will more easily and severely judge
If you worship anything with reckless zeal
You have given up your dignity and humanity
If you also fear most, the one you love most
You have misplaced your devotion

Kelly Kurt

Illuminate Me

How does a proton know when to decay
Or a photon know when it's being spied
Entangled electrons, light years apart
Dark matter tell just where to hide
The cosmos of the vastly large and small
Obeying laws, or just doing their thing
We may never have all of the answers
But I will seize all that science can bring

Kelly Kurt

Illusory Lover

I wrote a poem to poetry
In hopes of winning her heart
I knew she knew how men do think
Still, I tore her soul apart
Dear poetry, I love you so
You drive me more than being
Ever weighing upon my depth
Beyond my hope of seeing
Your beauty inspires words untold
Your grace and delicacy
No depth of thought is deep enough
Your figure entices me
How I would love to lie with you
And share your physical charms
Exchange our heat in reverie
Resting in each other's arms
But all I can do is stargaze
Because you are just a ghost
The thoughts of men unrealized
Amongst the celestial host

Kelly Kurt

Imagination

Richest renewable resource
Birthplace of innovation
Origin of art
Pilot of creativity
It inhabits the attentive mind
Feeding on reflection
Striving to burst out
Fantasizing about itself
Entertainment, diversion
Necessity

Kelly Kurt

Imbued Significance (Limerick)

A billion to one odds seem so rare
How could it be picked out of thin air?
The odds are all the same
For each stage of the game□
It's how you perceive them and compare

Kelly Kurt

In A Jar By The Door

Everyday interactions
Playing the role of yourself
As written by the ego
The 'real' you is constrained
Between your ears, your synapses
Often muted□
Fragments surface to mindfulness
Subliminally ignored unless overruled
Subconsciously, this manifests obliquely
In poetry
A free-association
A free look behind the mask

Kelly Kurt

In The Current (Limerick)

Though complexity led to this now
Physical events only allow
Deterministic ends
So it's nice to have friends
Since were in the same boat anyhow

Kelly Kurt

Inaction (Limerick)

We all want everything overnight
With no intent of joining the fight
Claim our only choice is
Increasing our voices
A self-delusional oversight

Kelly Kurt

Inapt Sensitivity

Sticks and stones, bullets and bombs
Starvation, poverty, disease
Terrorism, injustice
What is more abhorrent than these
With so many true ills present
Why do people still have a fit
Forcing myself and others
To do this when spelling s@#t

Kelly Kurt

Incite Insight

Woe the mundane shallows
Thoughtless pursuits□
Importance of Appearance
Reckless waste of being

Stir ye depth and Awareness
Enflame understanding
Open consciousness
Incite insight

Kelly Kurt

Indo-China Blues (Limerick)

In Southeast Asia there dwelt a mouse
With six children and a nagging spouse
"Too far from the oceans"
"Lousy with Laotians"
"Why'd I marry a rodent from Laos? "

Kelly Kurt

Infinity

Infinity is not a number
Nor a destination
Extending like star light
In all directions
Unending
No commencement
Irrational
Yet, it is ours

Kelly Kurt

Infinity Is Over (Limerick)

I watched a pot, and surely, it boiled
Yet another old adage was foiled
Never is a long time
Wasn't quite that sublime
Just six minutes until fully roiled

Kelly Kurt

Influence

Hovering closely, the shadow that's cast is dark, defined
Obscuring that which it covers
Withdrawing, the silhouette diffuses, disperses
Light returns
A faint penumbra, almost undetectable, remains
The shadow of the highest soaring bird
Although not seen
Can be felt
Has weight

Kelly Kurt

Infrastructure

On the way up
Told not to burn bridges
Mighty rivers require passage
Currents, too swift to swim or sail
Footpaths over tiny creeks, keep boots dry
Merely a convenience
Return trip, a possibility
Storms, not sprinkles, send you back
Hopping the creek, no longer possible
The storm has swollen it as well

Kelly Kurt

Inhumanity (Tanka)

It does not hit home
The sheer horror of struggle
Ruthlessness of life
Til a dead child's photo shocks
And you look at your own son

Kelly Kurt

Injured Moth

I know it is the way of nature, the circle of life
Things are born, they live, and then they die
Some have to kill and eat others to survive
Some need to fight and even kill to persevere
The weak and diseased suffer and perish
But tonight, a moth flew into my room
Not so much flew as fluttered awkwardly
It never got more than a foot off of the floor
Floundering to the ground, spinning ineptly
Making it back into the air for a moment
Before spiraling down like a maple seed
Part of its left wing was missing and its antennae gone
It wasn't brightly colored or large
Just a dirt brown, half inch moth
I wondered if moths feel pain
Or if they know fear
And what I should do
Euthanasia?
I could not bring myself to step on it
Ending its futile struggle and misery
I scooped it up in my right hand
Gently closing it into a loose fist
And walked outside to my prettiest flowerbed
It was a dark night
The moon, just a sliver in the western sky
I unfurled my fingers and rotated my wrist
Releasing the injured moth to the soil
I could not see it fall
Back in the light of my basement room
I saw on the palm of my hand
A moth sized wisp of fine, brown dust

Kelly Kurt

Innocence (Haiku)

Purity of heart
Simplicity of nature
Rare among adults

Kelly Kurt

Insects (Senryu Series)

Ants

Industrious dots
No fun to have in the pants
Stronger than they look

Bees

Honey producers
Important pollinators
Die after stinging

Beetles

Crunchy under foot
One quarter of all fauna
John, Paul, George, Ringo

Flies

Land on my sandwich
Can't escape open windows
Mess up the ointment

Moths

Attracted to flame
Larvae eat holes in your clothes
Most adults don't eat

Mosquitoes

Blood sucking females
Itchy bites hard not to scratch
Vectors for disease

Aphids

Tiny sap suckers

Gardener's antagonist
Ladybugs love them

Crickets

Nocturnal chirpers
Kept as pets by the Chinese
Pinocchio's pal

Cockroaches

Run away from light
Nuclear war survivors
Suggestive of filth

Fleas

Wingless parasites
Dog's ukulele tuner
tiny circus bugs

Kelly Kurt

Insomnia (Tanka)

Restless mind vexes
Four in the morning again
The sun will soon rise
Sleep comes intermittently
Last lines for poems are one cause

Kelly Kurt

Inspiration Haiku)

Creativity

Born from receptivity

Must be acted on

Kelly Kurt

Instinct (Haiku)

Knowing, without thought
Which way to go, what to do
Whether to stay still

Kelly Kurt

Intelligence Report (Limerick)

No one can know (Tho it's not been tried)
The exploits beyond my mind's divide
The barrier is dense
Can it make any sense?
Just to me, cause I'm on the inside

Kelly Kurt

Interminable Indifference

Seasons don't care what you think
How you feel
Winter freezes your toes mercilessly
Kills indiscriminately
Spring holds no delight in flowers
Rains on parades with no guilt
Summer bakes earth into submission
Drinks lakes and sweat alike
Autumn teases with color
Before showing its true face; a murderer
The sanguine find the favorable
Apply subjective splendor
Ignore the unashamed ruthlessness
Bestow unwarranted perfection
Idealize, romanticize, and poeticize
The seasons don't care

Kelly Kurt

Interpretation

What does it mean?

Was he trying to be symbolic?

The words are ornate; the style, fevered

Was there intent, a dexterous deception?

Subtle vagueness, barefaced candor?

A plan, there must have been a design

No!

It was written enthusiastically, spontaneously

Make of it what you will

That is your privilege as a reader

But the author's sentiment, his objective

Was simply to transcribe what inspiration initiated

Kelly Kurt

Investment Strategy (Senryu)

Oil, gold, land, power
Worthless as commodities
Time is the standard

Kelly Kurt

Iron

Catalyst for chlorophyll formation in plants

Essential for hemoglobin in humans

The core of our planet☐

The core of our civilization

Carbon turns it to steel

Carbon based life turns it to tools

Kelly Kurt

Iron Knee (Limerick)

The mob victim was calm as could be
Patellae in no danger, you see
The thug he'd embarrass
His kneecaps were ferrous
That is how you define irony

Kelly Kurt

Irony (Haiku)

Incongruity

Contrary, often absurd

Description of life

Kelly Kurt

Irrationality (Senryu)

Belief without facts
A Bronze Age mentality
Disservice to all

Kelly Kurt

Is It Just Me?

Are you partial to the smell of a distant skunk?
Is the soreness the day after hard work enjoyable?
Do severe storms exhilarate you?
Have you ever eaten the same thing nine days in a row?
Is the happiness of loved ones more important than your own?
Will the melody of a violin make you cry?
Are old memories like chronicles you've read?
Does the future excite, frighten and seem illusory?
Have you ever thought purely in the abstract?
Does the word, 'Iditarod' make you giggle?
Or is it just me?

Kelly Kurt

Is This Really A Choice? (Limerick)

Ted Cruz has a quite strange affliction
Some may well call it an addiction
He cannot seem to speak
Even one time per week
Sans spewing a mouthful of fiction

Kelly Kurt

Isms (Senryu Series)

Atheism

Not a religion
No belief in any god
Moral by nature

Capitalism

Free market system
Class division catalyst
Needs regulation

Egalitarianism

Even playing field
Equal opportunities
Fundamental rights

Fatalism

Future determined
Free will is an illusion
Destiny awaits

Hedonism

Devotion to self
Philosophy of pleasure
Delight in the now

Individualism

Focus on one's self
Embrace eccentricity
Nonconformity

Nihilism

No purpose in life
Knowledge is not possible
It is all pointless

Pessimism

Negativity
Anticipate only ill
Evil outweighs good

Racism

Ignorance embodied
Unacceptable divide
Hindrance to world peace

Socialism

Cooperation
Taxes put to better use
Oft misunderstood

Solipsism

Only I exist
Reality made by self
All ends when I sleep

Stoicism

Indifference makes calm
Adversity accepted
Endures with patience

Kelly Kurt

It Counts

A rock given with sincerity
Is more valuable than anything
Thoughtfulness outprices ability
Sensitivity, taken full wing

Kelly Kurt

It Doesn't Add Up

We seem have a desire to count
As if everything has some amount
From people to money and beyond
We simply wield our magic wand
Thinking that love can be reckoned
Or life detailed by the second
Beauty somehow calculated
A person's worth rightly rated
Enumeration has its place
Counting blessings, timing a race
If the urge to tally lingers
Count to ten upon your fingers

Kelly Kurt

It Must End

It must end, must it not?
This self-centered lust
This want, beyond need
This waste and this war
It is not in our genes
To hate and exploit
Haven't we learned?
Empires fall
The most powerful still die
Happiness cannot be bought
Or stolen
Or wrested away
Annexed
Usurped
Or demanded
It has been long enough
Our intemperance
Our hubris
Our blindered pursuit
Shall be our shallow grave
Unmarked for all time
It must end, must it not?

Kelly Kurt

It Wasn't Me.... (Poem # 1000)

I put down my notepad and walked into the kitchen
Turning on the lights, I paused
Why did I come in here?

The conversation was gushing like a burst dam
I opened my mouth to continue the flow
What was I going to say?

It seemed so important at the time
I reminded myself to remember to research it when I got
Later, while connected, I remembered to remember
What was I supposed to remember?

I had done this a hundred times before
Followed the procedures irreproachably
Achieved excellence, time and time again
Why did I miss a step this time?

Usually the archetype of thoughtfulness
Considerate of others' feelings
So why did I just say that?

It cannot be purposeful
I am more attentive than that
Everybody makes mistakes
But not this often
Who or what is to blame?
It can't be my fault

D'oh... Stupid brain!

Kelly Kurt

Italian Stallion (Limerick)

Mark Antony is losing some ground
With Cleopatra, now that she's found
That when she is away
With other girls he'll play
And she hates that he's Roman around

Kelly Kurt

Itch (Haiku)

Middle of the back
Unreachable place for most
Dominant locale

Kelly Kurt

It's A Girl

The first and last two, of my six, were girls
As a man, my boys were my toys
And I was theirs
They taught me things I could not learn on my own
It was the girls though, that educated me
Never a chauvinist, but unaware
I discovered that they are the same
A little more delicate in features
But the same heart, the same will
The same intellect, the same strength
The same...
Everything
They're women now and I pray for this world
To treat them the same
So that fathers, everywhere
Will be able to know
That their daughters will be respected
Valued
Equal
Never again, anywhere
Having to worry for a lifetime
When they hear the doctors say
"It's a girl."

Kelly Kurt

Jagged Week

Ups and downs
Highs and lows
Few plateaus

Weekend lull
Mid-week rush
Seems to crush

Varying
So many ways
In seven days

Deepest trench
Tallest peak
Jagged week

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Kelly Kurt

Job Performance (Limerick)

My boss said, 'You are fired' with a scoff
'You belong in a pig feeding trough'
Not satisfactory
Calendar factory
Where you can't take a couple days off

Kelly Kurt

Jonah Bologna (Limerick)

If I had to live inside a fish
And the big guy granted me one wish
I would ask of the boss
A jar of tartar sauce
Cause I'd bring my own fork and a dish

Kelly Kurt

Joy

Happiness is a prolonged feeling
Brought about by fulfillment of needs
Success, love, health and personal pleasure
Clearly sensed and appreciated□

Joy is brief and intense
But often unrecognized
What a shame
Even the most wretched life is exposed to daily joys
The gentle lullaby of a spring shower
The laughter of an infant
The sudden aroma of Hyacinths on a breeze
Too wrapped up in misery
These joys escape those who need them most

In the ramble of urban decay
Squeezed breathless by despair
In the oppressive grip of tyrants
Beneath the baking sun of Somalian skies
The sparrow still sings

Kelly Kurt

Juiced (Limerick)

Initially, the grape felt just fine
Hanging in the vineyard on its vine
It was typically hushed
But after being crushed
Broke up and let out a little wine

Kelly Kurt

June Bugs

On the scale of stupidity, as far as insects go
June bugs are the most obtuse creatures that I know
They are far less graceful than flying hippopotami
Nary a one surviving to see the month of July
At night I sit inside with my reading lamp turned on
As they bounce off of my windows (My conclusion is foregone)
In mornings light, outside my room, I see the repercussions
Two dozen lying on their backs, all dead from concussions

Kelly Kurt

Just Another Day

Another anticipated day has arrived
Many weeks in the planning and back of mind
But I have learned
Such days are just days
And like the 21,130 before
It will be a yesterday soon enough
No need to be concerned about what I wear
No need to rehearse actions or words
No anxiety. Just wake up

Kelly Kurt

Just One

There are two hundred ninety two fonts on my computer□
I use just one

There are dozens of spoons in my utensil drawer
I eat with just one

There are scores of different routes to the post office
I travel just one

There are plenty of reasons to be humble and kind
I need just one

There are over seven billion people on this planet
And
I am just one

Kelly Kurt

Just Right? Just Write

How many times do you give up?
Hours of struggling with merely one phrase
Sometimes it is only one word that thwarts
No idea can be perfectly translated
Not from essence of self to paper
Yes, writhe and thrash to refine
Aspire to make it just right
It may take a lifetime
So just write

Kelly Kurt

Just Standing In The Rain

My hair, clothes and body are soaking wet
Night had fallen after a sultry day
The air in my room was stagnant and thick
But a heavy rain was dropping forcefully outside
Out I went, into the drenching darkness
The first drops were icy against my back
But in seconds, I was sodden and inured
Water flowing down my forehead
Washed the day's sweat into my eyes
The sound of the deluge
drumming upon oak leaves
Drowned out the distant thunder
I stood, motionless, for over ten minutes
Becoming one with the downpour
I seldom feel more alive
Than when I'm just standing in the rain

Kelly Kurt

Just Wait (Tanka)

Northern Illinois

Minimal passage of time

May reverts to March

No need to heed calendar

August heat, sunrise away

Kelly Kurt

Kelly

What manner of name is that
For a sturdy, older man
Tho when spoken, I respond
I am not an ardent fan
I truly have no preference
For what to be called instead
As long as it's recognized
When I'm summoned to be fed

Kelly Kurt

Kelvin's Fallacy

Early last century a preeminent scientist said

"There is nothing new to be discovered in physics now."

This misconception is nothing short of ignorance and hubris

From the beginning of coherent thought, similar judgments have been made

Like arrogant teenagers, self-assuredly omniscient

Discovery is discrete from knowing

Measurements can be refined, but change what's being measured

Knowledge expands to fill available space

And the space multiplies to outpace absorption

The greatest wisdom earned through experience and age

Is that we know little, if any at all

Kelly Kurt

Keys

I have no car
No home
No safe
No boat
No motorcycle
No locks
So why do I have
So many keys?

Kelly Kurt

Killing From Afar

Progress?

A screen

A button

An order

Miles high

Miles away

Impersonal

Abstract

Collateral carnage, coldly calculated

From hand-to-hand

To sword

To arrow

To gun

To computer

Easier to kill

No longer humans

Kelly Kurt

Kisses (Senryu Series)

Peck

Quick osculation
Halfhearted intimation
Pickled pepper count

French

Erotic tongue dance
Oral hygiene is a must
Best be acquainted

Eskimo

Polishing schnozzles
Endearing salutation
Arctic canoodle

Hand

Chivalrous gesture
Deference to a lady
Good way to get germs

Sloppy

Inexperienced
Superfluous saliva
Help me, I'm drowning

Blown

Pantomime pucker
Passion transferred with a puff
I'm not touching him

Butterfly

Eyelashes to cheek

Adorable nuzzling
Moths do not like them

Of Death

Mafia hit sign
Wearing red shirt on Star Trek
Didn't brush your teeth?

Kelly Kurt

Kitchen (Senryu Series)

Stove

Gas or electric
Careful where you put your hands
At home on the range

Sink

Where dishes are done
Left off most extended lists
Either that or swim

Refrigerator

Extends food freshness
Better catch it if running
Stared in futilely

Toaster

Helps one to burn bread
Bathtub suicide device
Still not perfected

Microwave

Single man's best friend
The clock is seldom correct
Excites H₂O

Can Opener

Cliché wedding gift
Universal cat caller
Indispensable

Cupboards

S torage for dry food

Old Mother Hubbard's were bare
Ick, I saw mouse poop

Kelly Kurt

Knots (Senryu Series)

Granny

Inferior loop
Chauvinistically christened
Restrains your seniors?

Overhand

Fundamental form
Typically permanent
How fastballs are pitched

Square

Also called Reef Knot
Lies flat when cloth is employed
Better as a deal

Half Hitch

Looks how it's described
Starting point for complex knots
Must have been discharged

Slip

Used in crocheting
Released by pulling the tail
Bump on my forehead

Noose

Once used by hangmen
Commonly used as a snare
Necktie party rope

Bowline

Fixed loop at one end

Easy to tie and untie
Queue in a tie store?

Kelly Kurt

Knowledge

Ascertained by interpreting shadows

Sun, directly overhead, momentarily obliterates its erose borders

Encapsulated in fleeting glimpses

Suckled by the momentum of time

Mistaken for truth

Confused with understanding

Loftiest ambition

Unlikeliest achievement

Kelly Kurt

Kraptonite (Limerick)

Near-Invincible Man wouldn't go
His arch-enemy had a plan tho
Coprolite through the head
With his last breath he said
That's my one weakness, how did you know

Kelly Kurt

L.G.B.T

I know I am a man
That is the brain with which I was born
But what if 'I' was born in a female body?
The brain configuration, still male
Confusing, frustrating, but not illegal or immoral
No fault, blame or intent
Biological, innate
Still worthy, still human, still equal
Pre judged, discriminated against all the same
Therein lies the iniquity

Kelly Kurt

Laconic Mnemonic (Limerick)

End of the alphabet forgetter?
A memory trick that works better
If you're up to the task
I suggest that you ask
Malcom X why Z's the last letter

Kelly Kurt

Ladybugs (In My Room)

Unseen, in nooks and window sill corners
Secreted since the last warmth of autumn
Ladybugs slowly awaken□
Freckled smidgeons of carrotty creatures
Adorn the walls and ceiling
Flashing here and there, soundless
The occasional ping bouncing off a lightbulb
Like fairies playing pool with pearls

Kelly Kurt

Languid Day

Daylight's fleeting November sovereignty
Truncated by thick cloud cover
Leaves listless my Tuesday morning
Curtains open, but more light pours out than in
A steady rainfall pacifies, drowns
By late afternoon sunset, no diurnal light
Circadian rhythm in disarray
Languid day

Kelly Kurt

Lap Pillow

I can do without it
Sometimes when I leave my habitat
There are none to be found
It is a little discomfiting
But I survive

In my dilapidated armchair
Where I spend the bulk of my days
I always have two large ones waiting
Instinctively and immediately lap located

“They support my elbows”
I tell anyone who asks or cares to listen
At times I thought they were a security blanket
Even just a means of disguising my belly
(I still did this when lean though)
If you ever have me over
Please have one ready

Kelly Kurt

Larceny Lunacy (Limerick)

Not owning a car isn't a plus
A fact that caused the broke thief to cuss
Taken, literally
Lost composure when he
Was arrested for taking a bus

Kelly Kurt

Late Night Learning

The Planck length

Plate tectonics

Telomere shortening

Mycology

Existentialism

Why haven't I researched

Insomnia?

Kelly Kurt

Late October Heat (Haiku)

Sweat belies the date
Sunset, unambiguous
First frost's collusion

Kelly Kurt

Latest Study (Haiku)

Latest study shows
Ninety percent of studies
Are completely wrong

Kelly Kurt

Lawn Spiders

It had been remarkably warm and dry for the last three weeks
To conserve water, I had been hand sprinkling my flowers
But the lawn remained parched, and faded to a dormant hue
It was even too desiccated for most insects to emerge
I woke up to a cloudy Sunday and stepped out to meet the day
On the east lawn, eight to ten inch ovals of gossamer had 'bloomed'
Dozens of dense, ghostly white webs pocked the grass
Randomly scattered and incongruously beautiful
I had seen the work of funnel web spiders before
Here a web, there a web, in my petunias and in lonely corners
But they changed the landscape, seemingly overnight
The clover in that patch of lawn had kept most of its green
The contrast with the frosty, cotton candy webs was striking
Closing the door behind me as I came back inside
I closed my eyes for a moment and imagined it had just snowed

Kelly Kurt

Layers Of Life

Each portion of our lives, a new coat of paint
The previous layers buried but not gone
Some were crackled and faded
Some were unsullied, barely dry
But the brush of time ne'er restrains its stroke
Abrasions may reveal erstwhile layers
But only in pieces and provisionally
The portraitist continually adding
Layers of life

Kelly Kurt

Leap (Senryu)

The neediest month
When we fall a day behind
Receives the bonus

Kelly Kurt

Leased Love (Senryu)

I rented her heart
A deposit was required
Nonrefundable

Kelly Kurt

Left Behind? (Haiku)

Where do you go now?
Must you move on from this place
Or be left behind

Kelly Kurt

Lending A Hand

Walking back home last Saturday from the local store
I came across an older lady that I knew
She is in her 80s and helps run a thrift shop in town
All the churches here take turns supplying 'old ladies'
They sell used items at "Second Hand Rose"
The proceeds go towards charitable works
She said that on Monday, they were moving
Just down and across the street, but needed help
We chatted for a while, you know, the kind of banter
That takes place in small towns everywhere
Before we parted, I agreed to meet her at 8: 00
I am a night owl and usually don't retire before 4: 00
Getting up before 10: 00 is a rare thing for me
My alarm went off at 6: 30 this morning
I made a cup of instant coffee and shook the cobwebs out
The skies were ominous, storms were imminent
I walked the four blocks, downtown to the little shop
It was already very warm outside and awfully humid
I think she was a little surprised that I was there so early
Perhaps that I was even there at all
She knows I have a bad back and arthritic hips
But I am a quarter century her junior
There was a young man there as well, perhaps twenty years old
He had volunteered also and was talking with four women
Their combined age had to be over 340
For about three hours we moved racks of clothes
Boxes of knickknacks and all kinds of miscellany
Parading down and across the street, over and over
Like an army of sweaty ants moving to a new hill
Along the way, several other younger people joined in
What could have taken me all day to do
Was accomplished in short order with altruistic neighbors
Many hands make short work
As the last box was set down, the clouds let loose
A hard, driving rain that cooled me as I walked home
A reward for lending a hand

Kelly Kurt

Letdown (Senryu)

Anticlimactic

The buildup had been lengthy

Now the day has passed

Kelly Kurt

Liar, Lunatic Or Legend

Three options

Liar□

A product of the times

Playing and preying on the naïve

Making them liars too

Lunatic

Again, a product of the times

Caught up, parentally pushed

Powerless but punished

Legend

Third person rumors, hearsay

Exploits exaggerated

Contagious conflation

Celebrated craze

Three options

None warrant worship

Kelly Kurt

Lies (Tanka)

Spewed from a forked tongue
Most vile of utterances
Deceits and slanders
Concealing wrongdoing
Augmenting the transgression

Kelly Kurt

Life (Haiku)

Paper thin, fragile
Transient organic gust
Pointless yet special

Kelly Kurt

Life's Whole (Haiku)

The sum of life's whole
To be greater than its parts
Has to include love

Kelly Kurt

Lightning (Haiku)

Frenetic atoms
Colliding in an updraft
Seek opposite charge

Kelly Kurt

Like A Big Pizza Pie (Limerick)

If on a deep-sea fishing foray
Angling for a crooner signore
Dean Martin's favored dish
Is this tubular fish
It's not just an eel, that's a moray

Kelly Kurt

Likely None (Senryu)

Opinions vary
Many conflicting beliefs
At best, one is true

Kelly Kurt

Lime Rick (Limerick)

In the south lived a man named Lime Rick
Who would eat citrus fruit on a stick
A permanent pucker
From his sour sucker
Had him ready to kiss really quick

Kelly Kurt

Limericist (Limerick)

A young at heart rhymester known as Wes
Produced limericks that rivaled the best
Could be a brain tumor
Or great sense of humor
But I enjoy them all none-the-less

Kelly Kurt

Limiting Labels

No one is born a Pakistani or an American
You are not born a Catholic or a Hindu
No elite or untouchables
No one is born as any man-made classification
We are all just born
Blank slates, unrealized potential
As soon as that symmetry is broken
With artificial categorization
All hell lets loose

Kelly Kurt

Listen (Haiku)

Do not force your poems
They exist all around you
Find one and listen

Kelly Kurt

Little Things

Little things

Appreciated, make all the difference

When the major comforts of life are gone

It sucks

But you adapt

Little things

Once ignored, now take on more meaning

Having nothing left to lose

Is a kind of freedom... But

Little things

Priceless, sanity saving, motivating

It's been so damn hot

Tropical, drenched in sweat for over a week

Little things

Cooler, drier air is supposed to arrive tomorrow

Little things

No windfall, no meeting my soulmate, no material luxuries

No change in status. But hope

Little things

A dry brow, a cool breeze, a good night's sleep

Little things... Can be huge

Kelly Kurt

Living Underground

For more than half of my life I have lived underground
Growing up with five siblings, in a three bedroom house
I slept in basements until I moved out on my own at 24
Underground living has pros and cons
There are always more creepy crawlies lurking about
But it was like having your own private apartment
Except for excursions to the laundry room
Nobody ventured into my man-cave
The winters were always exceptionally chilly
While the summers stayed a good ten degrees cooler
The first three years out on my own, I lived on the second floor
To me, that was like living in the sky. Unnatural
For the next twenty-one years, my bedroom was on the first floor
I thought I had adapted to living above ground
But it never did feel quite right for some reason
Now, I have been living underground again for nine years
It has come full circle, back to my troglodyte roots
A corner room in the basement of a 158 year old rural church
The thick stone walls and concrete floors mitigate summer's heat
Although winter moves right in with me for five months each year
Seldom does a soul but I, set eyes on my four walls
Sometimes for more than a year at a stretch
But the silence can be comforting, even inspirational
Spiders and centipedes roam around freely
Dust accumulates at an astonishing rate
But it is my home, my sanctuary, my womb
I believe I will feel contented when I am in my grave

Kelly Kurt

Location, Location, Location

Where is here?

Fleeting positions

Stillness, a figment

Rotation, 1000 miles per hour

Orbital speed, 66,000 miles per hour

Galactic spin, 514,000 miles per hour

Expansion through space, 1.3 million miles per hour

Combined motion, 800 miles per second

Every second

25 billion miles each year

There is no here

There is nothing but here

Kelly Kurt

Lone Cloud (Haiku)

Curl, in a sea of blue
Dissipating in the wind
Fades to memory

Kelly Kurt

Lonely Neutrino

Half integer spin fermion
With inconsiderable mass
No charge with which to interact
Through normal matter it does pass
Wee product of beta decay
And stellar nuclear fusion
Oscillating between flavors
Can lead to extreme confusion
Poor neutrino has not a friend
Outside of the physicist's lab
But if I met one in a bar
I'd cheerfully pick up its tab

Kelly Kurt

Looks Like Up To Me (Limerick)

In complete darkness, the dim seems bright
Like a firefly at the edge of sight
At the lowest of low
It's always good to know
That the tunnel often ends in light

Kelly Kurt

Losing It (Limerick)

A sleepless man in Illinois
Found consciousness less than a joy
Ninety minutes of sleep
With little of it deep
Surely is starting to annoy

Kelly Kurt

Lost In Translation (Limerick)

I'm on a strange missing-persons case
Magician's assistant to replace
Tho standing very close
After uno and dos
The chica vanished without a tres

Kelly Kurt

Lost Weekend (Limerick)

The countdown, pared away as by knife
Procrastination, rampant and rife
Progress is unsteady
Turns out it's already
The third day of the rest of my life

Kelly Kurt

Love Poems

What has happened to love poems?
Verses that enfolded the soul
Affecting the essence of Ardor
Extracting intensity from complexity
Illuminating the richness and totality
Those days have dissolved into banality
Clichéd, uninspired compost overflows
Is love a thing of the past?
Has language been so enfeebled?
Humanity accordingly marginalized?
Passion abridged to Platitude?
What has happened to love poems?

Kelly Kurt

Love...?

What is love?

A scientist may answer, "Love is simply a hormonal, electro-chemical response to the evolutionary instinct for propagation of the species.

A psychologist might invoke the need for emotional release, bonding, companionship, support and various needs, rising from both societal influences and basic human nature.

A cynic may well say that there is no such thing. If it exists, it is at best, an ambiguous concept, used to sell jewelry, cards, songs and flowers, and to justify foolish acts.

An etymologist would break down its current uses in language; describing a fondness for chocolate or sunsets etc. or any activity, thing or person that is rather favored.

Some may sense that animals share a quality of the idea.

By the time we are two or three, we have a simplistic, fairly universal, and quantitative perception of love. It is a step or two beyond, liking.

As we mature, become more experienced, worldly and wiser, we think we can or do understand love, but most never really try, and if they do, it is usually a one dimensional effort.

Love has no quantitative or qualitative boundaries. It is like the universe; all encompassing, beautiful, but with more questions than answers.

A man can love his parents, his friends, his wife or girlfriend, his children. But, as much as he may say, "I love them all equally." he knows that he loves...

differently. He does not love his best buddy the 'same' as he loves his wife. Nor does he love his brother the same as he loves his child. So how can love, one

word, have so many applications and defy normal definition? Should 'love' always be preceded by adjectives; family love, parental love, romantic love? Do you love

your wife twice as much because you love her as a friend and as a romantic partner? Love is often said to be eternal. What if your wife leaves you for

someone else? She has moved on and given her eternal love for you to another.

And you may well have replaced your eternal love for her with, at best,

contempt. That seems to eliminate eternal, as a requisite descriptor. Some children stop loving their parents, friendships dissolve, brothers part ways.

I believe in love, romantic and platonic, so don't get me wrong. I am not saying that it doesn't exist conceptually, or at all. Defining it is the problem. It's liked

being told to, "Define an animal." First you have to know what kind; a zebra, a

whale, a termite or turtle? Then, do you describe its appearance, its anatomy, physiology, its cell structure or atomic make-up, or perhaps its behavior, feeding

habits, mating rituals? How about its smell, how it feels or what it sounds like?

To even try to come close to accomplishing the task of definition, all of the above

and much more needs to be outlined, and for the countless number of all animals. Multiply that process by... infinity, and you may come close to defining love.

The best I can say is that it's as close to A Priori knowledge as I am aware of. When you feel it, you know it. It comes, it goes, it's shared, it's lost, it's stolen, so when you feel it, enjoy.

Kelly Kurt

Lovesick Poet (Limerick)

On the internet dwelt a young gent
Whose frustrations were palpably pent
In rapid succession
With mounting progression
He used his forlorn poems to vent

Kelly Kurt

Low Tech

Electronics in the digital age
Confer us with efficiency and ease
Wondrous devices connect continents
High definition is certain to please
Pacemakers save innumerable lives
By global positioning we are led
But if the power grid should crash on us
We'd be lost if our batteries were dead

Kelly Kurt

Luck (Tanka)

Providence evolved
Fortune shining with favor
Unexpected turn
But not out of the clear-blue sky
Set in motion by actions

Kelly Kurt

Madness (Senryu)

Order and chaos
The contrasts can be subtle
Eye of beholder

Kelly Kurt

Magazines (Senryu Series)

AARP

Retirement tips
For those of a certain age
Excuse me, I've gas

Reader's Digest

Most read in the world
Post lunch, library function?
Condensed articles

Good Housekeeping

Seals of approval
Advice for a well-kept home
Perhaps I should read

National Geographic

Great photography
The world at your fingertips
Where boys first see breasts

People

Celebrity news
If you don't have your own life
Hey, I'm a people!

Time

Person of the year
American news weekly
There's never enough

Sports Illustrated

Athletic journal

Male market majority
Swimsuit edition

Rolling Stone

Popular culture
Rock-and-roll is here to stay
Look, no moss on me

Playboy

Men's entertainment
I just read the articles
Killed by porn

Kelly Kurt

Magic (Haiku)

Illusion or fact
Sleight of hand to entertain
Enchants none-the less

Kelly Kurt

Magic Word

Say it's for religion
Special rights, not universal
Saturday off, only if your God requires
Health care, if doctrine disallows
Insane bias
I can claim the prerequisite to smoke weed
Not religiously 'protected'
But headgear and facial hair are safeguarded
All or none
I do not believe in a god
I am discriminated against
The day may come
I do my best to advance that cause
With Love for all
Despite the inevitable

Kelly Kurt

Mailbox

Most days it hangs like a forgotten ornament
Hollow, empty, front door freckle
The occasional flier disrupting cobwebs
But two or three times a year
Sometimes unexpectedly
It becomes a treasure chest
Hand written letter, the swag

Kelly Kurt

Makes Sense (Limerick)

I will look at you straight in the eye
To explain not the how but the why
If you don't get it, then
I'll make clear, once again
The last thing I want to do is die

Kelly Kurt

Makeup (Senryu Series)

Lipstick

Enhances the mouth
Cleopatra used crushed bugs
Won't beautify pigs

Foundation

Ground work for greasepaint
Quite inedible pancake
Support for buildings

Rouge

Emphasize cheekbones
Gives appearance of a blush
Color of Moulin?

Mascara

Thickens eyelashes
Applied with curved brushes
Counterfeited youth

Nail Polish

Keratin cover
A rainbow of color sets
Carpenters' don't use

Eyeliner

Delineates eyes
Pencils as applicators
Describes corneas

Eye Shadow

Adds depth and contrast

Ground mica augments shimmer
Optic allusion

Kelly Kurt

March Skies

As night commences, Jupiter surfaces
Outshining the schools of stars
In the ebony-black, midnight battlefield
Charges fiery-red war god, Mars
Circumscribed Saturn, following close behind
Sowing crops for Gemini
Castor and Pollux trailed by a cosmic crab
Celestial fete, by and by
Venus in Aquarius, at dawn's first light
Ushers in the equinox
Winter's zodiac melting into the west
Escorted by advanced clocks

Kelly Kurt

Maslow Plateau

Hierarchy of needs

Physical requirements

Basic sustenance

All else, wants

I disagree

I need to learn

I need to know

I need to write

These needs

If unmet

Would be my demise

What I can be

I must be

Or I won't be

Kelly Kurt

Math

It is difficult to delineate
Flashes awaken
How far can it go?
Thought on its own

Kelly Kurt

Math (Senryu Series)

Addition

Simplest of functions
More is not always better
Adjunct to a home

Subtraction

Greater remainder
When removing negatives
Must be considered

Division

Determines proportion
Outcome is seldom a whole
Rift preventing peace

Multiplication

Go and be fruitful
Zero negates the product
Alike numbers square

Average

Don't mean to be mean
All men think they're above it
Major baseball stat

Decimal

Point for percentage
Extended with precision
Dewey's book system

Prime

An infinite set

Alone with one and itself
Always odd (Like me)

Square

Product of their roots
Equal sided rectangle
Nineteen-sixties nerd

Kelly Kurt

Matter Of Time

East, to space's north
Motion, our only clue
Measurement gives it life
A whole, seen in pieces
Pronouns are an insult

Kelly Kurt

Maturity (Haiku)

A development
Not of the physical self
But the spiritual

Kelly Kurt

Maudlin (Tanka)

Recall of past love
Perfumes the still air of night
Slumber suspended
Memories stir against will
Fanning the lingering scent

Kelly Kurt

Mauve Door

Plain, brass plated doorknob
Concavity on its front
Matte finish conceals fingerprints
Two steel hinges facilitate operation
One, eight inches from each end
Screwed into the right side
Opening it inward
Hollow core permits transmission
Sounds enter and exit with ease
A coat of paint on my room's side
Left open in good weather
Inviting equilibrium
Today, it is closed

Kelly Kurt

Maytober 15th

It had the feel of fall
Rays met no resistance from the air
The blue of the sky, more than a color
Sublimating frost
But green's share was in its beginning
No scent of decay
Only anticipation

Kelly Kurt

Me

Far, far away, in a field nearby□
A happy lad wipes a tear from his eye
Remaining quite still, he walks over here
Tho he never arrives, he's been here for years
With nothing to say, he talks all day long
As frail as a mouse, the lad is quite strong
No sense does he make, his words are so clear
Calm as can be, he trembles with fear
He speaks very loud, without making a sound
Never to be seen, he's always around
The lad is so young, for a man of his age
Free to roam, he is kept in a cage
I know the lad not, the boy – he is me
Blind from birth, I continue to see

Kelly Kurt

Me, Myself And I

Poems, Poems

Poems nobody reads

A poet, a poet

A poet no one believes

Way above the rest?

Somehow the very best

Most popular on site

It just doesn't seem right

Many have clamored

But it remains unanswered

He's not the only nor the first

He's actually not even worst

But management, please be aware

Many here don't think it's fair

Kelly Kurt

Measurements (Senryu Series)

Inch

About a thumb's width
Movement of iconic worm
Men tend to add some

Acre

Landowner's desire
Plot plowed by oxen daily
Three stooges' booboo

Carat

Weight of carob seed
Fiancé's fascination
Bugs Bunny's dinner

Decibel

One tenth a Bel, duh
Acoustic intensity
You'll have to speak up

Light-Year

Six trillion miles long
Astronomical distance
Toy Buzz' last name

Pi

Sixteenth Greek letter
Ratio of circumference
Endless decimals

Pint

A tall glass of beer

Little chaps are only half
Not past tense of pine

Kelly Kurt

Medical Procedures (Senryu Series)

Facelift

Wrinkle remover

Why do you look so surprised?

Can't lift self-esteem

Transplants

Often life saving

More donors should register

Corrected flora?

Dialysis

Filtering of blood

Peritoneal option

How to phone Ysis

Hip Replacement

Senior surgery

Ball and socket Surrogate

Cure for the straitlaced?

Lap Band

Ersatz willpower

Didn't work for Chris Christie

Banjoes on my knee?

Lasik

Vision correction

Reshaping the cornea

I do when I'm ill

Liposuction

Blubber vacuuming

Most prevalent procedure
Trump's head could use it

Breast Augmentation

Saline prosthesis
Hollywood necessity
Boob job résumé

Kelly Kurt

Memories Cracked

I saw a new picture of you today
I have old ones in a book
You were young and vital then
I almost didn't recognize you
I knew it had been fifteen years
And I have aged respectively
But your eyes were dull and sunken
Your expression, blank
You were old

Kelly Kurt

Memory (Haiku)

Encoded data

Collective experience

Unspeakably more

Kelly Kurt

Mental Modulation

Much more will be explained
The LHC is a nice toy
I have, to some extent, built similar
Confirmations are bonuses
Doubts are certain
Not merely a matter of power
Thinking must change

Kelly Kurt

Metals Senryu Series)

Iron

Magnet attraction
Hemoglobin element
Dictator's harsh fist

Silver

Cloud's lucky lining
Electrical conductor
Judas' payment

Gold

Olympian's quest
The standard of excellence
Midas' downfall

Lead

Mad hatter's poison
Nothing to do with pencils
Makes awful balloons

Copper

Old time policeman
No longer much in pennies
Oxidizes green

Nickel

Used to make namesake
How much that prostitute costs
Bears' famous defense

Mercury

Thermometer fill

Liquid at room temperature
Roman messenger

Kelly Kurt

Metamorphic (Limerick)

A frail young artist named Janet
Had a rock saw but couldn't man it
Though she didn't like men
She would use any when
Starting to take sculpture for granite

Kelly Kurt

Meteor Watch

The hour, small
The moon, new
The clouds, scarce
And the globe plows headlong through old comet tears
Crickets for company
Neck craned and strained
The first flash comes
Arrow straight
Neon bright
Another bisects the sky
My pulse picks up
Five minutes pass
Then five more
The star studded heavens fall still
Corner of one eye catches a glint
Was that one?
Patience
By hour's end the count is only two
Patience
A freshet of incandescent grains finally rewards the wait
Night's tally explodes
Wonder, satisfied
Dawn approaches
Pillow beckons
Meteors and I sleep

Kelly Kurt

Microwaves (Tanka)

Dinners in seconds
Hot spots and dried out edges
Made up for by speed
Electromagnetic waves
Pervade daily existence

Kelly Kurt

Micturition Twist (Limerick)

I drank way too much water today
The bathroom seemed like miles away
I tried doing a dance
To stop wetting my pants
I'm not sure it was worth the display

Kelly Kurt

Mid-December Thunder

The Geminids will peak tonight
A dense cloud cover foils this year's view
I don't know how many more chances I'll get
But at four this morning, nature gave me another rarity
I stood outside in the darkness
A warm, mid-December rain ablated
As I listened to the rumble of thunder

Kelly Kurt

Middle Of Nowhere

Where is the middle of nowhere?
It can't be a physical location
Nonexistence does not logically follow
Nonliteral, it nevertheless exists
In the cognizance of particularized consciousness
Between here and there
A position of pointless whereabouts
A location of nonlinear unpredictability
An interval of random, temporal existence
A centrality locus is mythical
Dimensional actuality disposes centrality
We just, are

Kelly Kurt

Midwest Halloween

Brave young souls defy the cold
Darkness and rain are no barriers
Shadowed by parents' headlights
They skip and snicker down sidewalks
Skeletons cavort with princesses
Loading bags and buckets with spoils
Due warning given at doorways
The lesser of two evils is chosen
Jack-o-lanterns still suffer
Fragmented on pavement like roadkill
Night's end is eerily quiet
Neighborhoods deserted
Bellies full
October over

Kelly Kurt

Migrating Geese (Haiku)

Fluttering chevron
Stalks the southward ebbing sun
Resounding claxons

Kelly Kurt

Milky Way (Haiku)

Spiral galaxy
Plane splashed across the night sky
Gives us perspective

Kelly Kurt

Milky Way (Senryu)

Out of all of them
My favorite galaxy
The one I call home

Kelly Kurt

Millipede

A millipede tripped o'er a mote of dust
And sprained five-hundred ankles
His mantis doctor explained he must
Avoid further tangles
If not, the damage could be permanent
And he'd live with constant pains
Imagine the dire impediment
Of wielding five-hundred canes
The millipede scoffed and limped fast away
His doom was quite direct
An errant grain of sand sent him astray
And he promptly broke his neck

Kelly Kurt

Mind And Heart

The intellect is a wonderful thing
Analyzing, comparing, anticipating
Information is examined and questioned
Put into logical order and Scrutinized
Is that where it ends?

The heart, though a metaphorical vehicle
Uses the same Evidence
Explored with wisdom and skill
Interacting and cooperating with intellect
Discovering its own course

Mind and heart together
Realize an unspoiled harmony
Collaboration of efforts
Quid pro quo
The sum of being

Kelly Kurt

Mind Of Its Own

It struck me
Like a warm, tight hug
Not a slap in the face
"I know what I'm going to write! "
Quickly, pen and paper are procured
"Hurry, write it down while it's alive! "
The first few words flow
Faster than the ink can dry
And then
A shift
I intended to write one thing
But another is emerging
I wanted to use a specific word
But another word appeared
At first, I struggled against it
"I will write what I started out to write! "
But when I read the last sentence
It wasn't what I thought
"What is happening?
Is this creativity?
Something apart from control? "
I have learned not to fight it
My mind has a mind of its own

Kelly Kurt

Mind/Brain (Senryu)

Twelve hundred ccs
Center of my universe
Locked away in bone

Kelly Kurt

Mind? (Haiku)

From dawn until dusk
Consciousness is what rules
Does that mean that's all?

Kelly Kurt

Misguided Hope

Science has shown that we are but beasts
History has proven that science is correct
Fundamental particles arranged through laws
Causation conducting corollaries in progression
Free will illusory, fate determined and final
Consciousness an emergent artifice
Grasping the legitimacy of this evidence
I still innately feel there is something more
Not faith, but misguided hope

Kelly Kurt

Missing Signals (Limerick)

Kleptomaniac street worker, Claire
Would not let people into her lair
The sight was mind-numbing
Should have seen it coming
It turned out all of the signs were there

Kelly Kurt

Missing: Me

I have gone missing
That's not me in the mirror
Maybe I should put up a wanted poster
"Lost; hopes, dreams, appetite for life."
I've been gone a long time
I could be anywhere, or nowhere
Where should I look; or is it when?
If I find me; what then?
Is anyone else looking?

Kelly Kurt

Mistakes (Tanka)

Part of the process

No one's ever been immune

Daily occurrence

Beneficial when learned from

True madness when repeated

Kelly Kurt

Modes Of Transportation (Senryu Series)

Cars

Fossil fuel feeders
Inverse square of manhood size
Obsolete in months

Trains

Crisscross the country
Wedding gown embellishment
Passenger and freight

Boat

Buoyant watercraft
In the navy they're called ships
Where I put gravy

Plane

Heavier than air
Two dimensional surface
Wright brothers' renown

Motorcycle

Hell's Angels' transport
Much more dangerous than cars
Many young lads' dream

Walking

Known as hoofing it
No way to pick up a date
Boots were made for it

Rocket

Landed men on moon

Controlled explosion propelled
Acclaimed scientist

Kelly Kurt

Moments (Haiku)

No matter your age
Each current moment of life
Is the only one

Kelly Kurt

Moment's Mind In Ink

Write your poem down
From where did it originate
If you would have written it last year
Would it have been the same
Or written at all
Love, pain, beauty; any subject
A reflection of your present state
Fluid, conscious, subconscious
You

Kelly Kurt

Moment's Mind In Ink (Senryu)

Can a saddened man
Write about pure ecstasy
With any power

Kelly Kurt

Monday

Most days have attributed characters
Feelings attached to cyclic position
Setting a subconscious predilection

Wednesday is hump day
At noon, glass is half full
There is light at the end

Friday is patience rewarded
A watched pot that finally boils
The two minute drill

Saturday and Sunday are related
Sometimes planned, sometimes spontaneous
It's your choice!

But Monday is always in your head
It whispers occasionally at weekends start
By its end it is a cacophony

Monday's alarm is the shrillest
Unless you're an optimist
Monday sucks

There are some who don't notice
Just another day of the week
Blessing or a curse?

Kelly Kurt

Money (Senryu Series)

Penny

Common copper coin
Inexpensive cost for thought
Wiser than a pound

Nickel

Five years in prison
Adorned by Jefferson's head
Tiny bag of weed

Dime

Cheap for a dozen
Stop here if your brakes are good
Paperback novel

Quarter

One fourth of the game
Show none to the enemy
School year division

Dollar

A million feels good
Strange bet against a donut
It is almighty

Banks

Steep sides of rivers
Financial houses of cards
Where clouds store their wealth

Credit

Given where it's due

Dangerous card to abuse
Cash antithesis

Kelly Kurt

Monsters (Senryu Series)

Frankenstein's Monster

Misunderstood dude
Would lose head if not bolted
Not a fan of fire

Dracula

This guy really sucks
He's not a morning person
Bram Stoker's nightmare

Mummy

Egyptian curse guy
Wrapped up with nowhere to go
Daddy's better half

Dragon

Fire breathing lizard
Enamored with princesses
Puff was magical

Ogre

Fairy tale meanie
Prefer to eat human flesh
Every other boss

Werewolf

Beware the full moon
Destroyed by silver bullets
Once bitten, twice die

Zombie

Trendy walking dead

That voodoo you do so well
Potent rum cocktail

Kelly Kurt

Months (Senryu Series)

January

A new beginning
Smack in the heart of winter
Summer in Sydney

February

Groundhog's day in sun
The middle is for lovers
Every fourth it leaps

March

Brings about madness
The Ides bode ominously
The Irish carouse

April

First day bamboozles
The fifteenth appropriates
Blossom bringing rains

May

Celebrates mothers
Daisies cavort in the breeze
Winter? What winter?

June

Favorite of brides
Summer tiptoes, then traipses
Pearls for Gemini

July

Birth month of Caesar

Dog days barbeque grillers
School, long forgotten

August

Lawns scorched to russet
Leo's heat is getting old
Tomatoes burgeon

September

It hath thirty days
Academics recommence
Harvest moon shines on

October

Autumn shows its face
Goblins rendezvous for treats
Could use a new name

November

Gelid winds augur
Fourth Thursday reunites kin
Penultimate month

December

Seems a fitting end
Overcoat's first real workout
Different in Iraq

Kelly Kurt

Moon (Haiku)

Werewolves' stimulus

Lovers' illumination

Governess to Earth

Kelly Kurt

Mosquitoes (Where I Draw The Line)

I am typically reticent to deliberately harm anything
In fact, I often go out of my way to avoid it

As far as we can tell, our planet is special
Out of roughly one septillion in our universe
Ours is the only one that's known to harbor life
What an extraordinary distinction
Out of the inanimate, infinitesimal quarks
Spewed from the fiery beginning of time
Living creatures evolved in salient diversity
Largely interdependent in a vast bionetwork
Each a singular marvel, beautiful in its own right
Deserving of reverence, entitled to exist
Not to be destroyed capriciously

Last night, I left the door open for two hours
I was outside, enjoying the early July sundown
When I came back inside, I sat in my usual spot
Prepared to write of the exquisiteness
The unreserved flawlessness of nature
My admiration and veneration
When suddenly, several mosquitos began to bombard
Strafing my ears with unreasonable volume
Audaciously lancing my forearm
It was a moment of abrupt self-awareness
This, this is where I draw the line
And I swatted the little bastards

Kelly Kurt

Mother

You died thirty-nine years ago
I had just turned eighteen
The things you taught me
The things I learned by watching
The love you showered
I remember it all
Thank you
Thank you for my compassion
For my love of poetry
For my insatiable curiosity
For being my mother

Kelly Kurt

Mountain Do (Limerick)

Betty Sue's looks gave Abner a chill
That moonshining girl upon the hill
She got way too frisky
When drinking her whiskey
But that poor country boy loved her still

Kelly Kurt

Mountains (Senryu Series)

Mt. Everest

Climbers pinnacle
Sagarmatha in Nepal
It can never rest

Kilimanjaro

Africa's highest
Equatorial glaciers
Dormant volcano

Fuji

Inspires poetry
Can be seen from Tokyo
Delicious apple

Matterhorn

Pyramidal peak
Third highest Alpine mountain
Antler on atom?

Olympus

Loftiest in Greece
Residence of the twelve gods
Volcano on Mars

Vesuvius

Demolished Pompeii
Three million still in peril
My gut after gin

Denali

Once Mount McKinley

North America's tallest
GMC truck brand

Kelly Kurt

Mr. E.

As centrifugal
Is to centripetal
So material
Is to my ethereal
You keep time empirical
I track it sidereal
Reality isn't all it should be
It might not even exist, outside of me
Others ask, "Why should it be? "
While I say, "why not? " but that's just me
So my name, I change to ethereal
Don't you see?
That way I'll be known
As Mr. E

Kelly Kurt

Ms. Cue (Limerick)

Momma's boy Dean and his brother
Were lovers of maternal smother
"We're attacked at the hip"
What a Freudian slip
To say one thing but mean their mother

Kelly Kurt

Mumbo Jumbo (Limerick)

An elephant I asked long ago
Directions to San Antonio
I was surprised to learn
This senile pachyderm
Completely forgot the Alamo

Kelly Kurt

Muscles (Senryu Series)

Biceps

Often targeted
To exclusion by the vain
Which way to the beach?

Triceps

Three headed arm bulk
Extends both halves of the arms
Biceps' antagonist

Pectoralis

The bulk of the chest
Adducts and rotates the arm
Lifts and supports breasts

Deltoids

Three groups of fibers
Abduct and stabilize arm
Shaped like Greek letter

Latissimus Dorsi

Gives torso 'V' shape
Boat rower's source of power
Chin-up assistant

Rectus Abdominis

The basic six-pack
Crucial to postural strength
And expelling poop

Hamstrings

Four distinct muscles

Flex the knee, extend the hip
Hurt like hell when pulled

Gastrocnemius

Belly of the leg
Fixed to Achilles tendon
Stands you on your toes

Heart

Striated muscle
Biological blood pump
loosely linked with love

Kelly Kurt

Muse (Senryu)

Inspiration strikes
I am not told what to write
Just to write something

Kelly Kurt

Mushrooms

It rained two days ago
It rained yesterday too
This morning it was cloudy and cool
Having been cooped up for a while, I went outside
On the north side of the building
Everywhere I looked
Bright yellow, with large, flat caps
Intense red, with little domes
Brown, grey, white and speckled
Every shape and size
Dense patches and scattered randomly
Like an open glade in some fairy tale
I almost expected to see gnomes or elves hiding behind a few
Later, the clouds broke
And the midsummer sun evaporated the puddles
Where the magical garden had been
Just eight hours earlier
Were shriveled, grotesque sculptures
And invisible spores, hiding in wait
For the next rainy spell
Promising their enchantment once more

Kelly Kurt

Music (Haiku)

Murmuring rivers
Serenading nightingales
Paramour's heartbeat

Kelly Kurt

Musical Instruments (Senryu Series)

Piano

Three-hundred years old
Ten fingers are not enough
Mozart's lump of clay

Guitar

Weeping and screaming
Strummed, picked, fingered, made love to
All genres of music

Violin

Part of the player
Emotional instrument
A gift with a bow

Tuba

Sousa's deep-toned voice
The largest dot in polka
Takes a lot of brass

Drums

Primal percussion
Provides beat with which to march
The rhythm in blues

Banjo

Can't help but move feet
A better use for a drone
Better picked than scabs

Bagpipes

Best after whiskey

A dozen cats got stepped on
None of them survived

Harp

Flashback precursor
Evocative of angels
Not for marching bands

Kelly Kurt

My Belly Was Happy

Two in the morning
Haven't eaten all day
Coffee and water
A few cigarettes
Internet connection failed
What do I do?
Damn, I'm hungry
A few hours earlier
Some Easter food was given
A kind, thoughtful gesture from a friend
Containers of food were retrieved from my refrigerator
Bread, Yams, Turkey and fruit
Plates be damned
Utensils... too slow
Fingers dipped
Salt shaker to mouth
Cold, quick
Satisfying
My belly
My being
Happy
Grateful

Kelly Kurt

My Calling Card

Tired eyes belie
The drama that dwells inside
Waking hours
When cognition's multiplied
It's a battlefield
Where thoughts and dreams collide
Open up your mind and join me on this ride

Forethought, hindsight
Overcome with views
Reaction to insight
Playing on your cues
Analyzing options
Struggle with the truth
Amazing visions
When the veil is removed

How could it be so simple?
And, why did it seem so hard?
When destiny needs an example
Imagination's my calling card

Kelly Kurt

My Creator

Everything I have encountered
Everyone that I have met
Every place that I have seen
Every thought I have had
Every sunrise, sunset, rainstorm and blizzard
Every heartache
Every discovery
Every elation
Every moment in a crowd
Every hour of solitude
Every meal I've eaten
Every cocktail consumed
Every step, free or impeded
Every atom inhaled
Me

Kelly Kurt

My Dreams For A Sleeping Child

Go gently to slumber
Lay your soft head on what surrounds
Display the peaceful visage you've inherited
Long of lash
Alabaster in complexion
Button nose
Pure soul
Waking dynamics are still
All you are, mellows to truth
My daughter, my link to the future
I see in you now what I wish for us both
Adventure
Sweet adventure
What courses in dream through mind so clear?
What possibilities your potential and Path?
Go strong my child
Day and year
Go without limits or boundaries
No cause to doubt
Go with love

Kelly Kurt

My Fault

I am only human
Mistakes have been made
I have said and done regretful things
That is my burden, my responsibility
I have failed through apathy and idleness
I am accountable for those lapses as well
What of betrayal though?
The acts of perfidy against me
As navigator of my providence
Sole proprietor of my existence
I cannot place liability elsewhere
Due diligence overlooked
Too comfortable, too complacent
I should have seen it coming
The signs were persistently there
Life should never be so unguarded
Devastation at the hands of another
Nonetheless, my fault

Kelly Kurt

My Friend Ayman

A world away in beautiful Kashmir
I met a young poet on-line
He posted a poem and I perused it
In return, he read one of mine
It didn't take long to create a bond
And soon correspondence did flow
I could not be more appreciative
Of the man I just got to know
His letters are charming, tell of his life
And always include compliments
His interest and concern are affecting
His heart, obviously immense
Though life has handed him many travails
He has handled them all with grace
A blossoming poet whom I now call friend
In my heart enjoys a dear place

Kelly Kurt

My Gardens (Senryu Series)

Crocus

Usher out winter
Embrace the Earth with purple
Waken daffodils

Hostas

Variegated leaves
Divide them every autumn
Decorate the shade

Ferns

Reproduce with spores
Attractive without flowers
Prehistoric look

Tulips

Perennial bulb
Christened for Persian turbans
Vanguard for springtide

Bluebells

At home under trees
Take the reins from the tulips
Give way to lilies

Daisies

Spread effortlessly
motivated asterisks
Abstract happiness

Verbena

Dense ground covering

Saturate warm air with scent
Butterfly allure

Oxalis

Plum-dyed, shamrock leaves
Fold up nicely at nighttime
Dainty pastel blooms

Zinnias

First flower in space
Ostentatious daisy kin
Hummingbird haven

Marigolds

Distinctive bouquet
Companion for tomatoes
Fernlike foliage

Snapdragons

Varied pastel hues
Open from bottom to top
Vibrant reptile mouths

Irises

Rainbow of colors
Georgia O'Keefe genitals
Some could use a shave

Lilies

Blossoming trumpets
Asiatic and tiger
Ms. Munster's favored

Chrysanthemum

Greek for gold flower

Japan's imperial seal
Autumn's final gasp

Sedum

Succulent stonecrop
Grows without much help from me
Gravel carpeting

Allium

Latin for garlic
Globular flower clusters
Onion relative

Petunia

Microscopic seeds
Porky's inamorata
Delicate pastels

Salvia

Mint family member
Racemes of riotous red
Annual pot fill

Tomato

Deadly nightshade kin
Summer's first bite; explosive
Technically a fruit

Basil

Aromatic herb
Spaghetti sauce amico
Fresh is always best

Cucumber

Pickle precursor

Encapsulated water
Get ready to burp

Rhubarb

Red stalks make tart pies
Enormous, poisonous leaves
Tantamount to tiff

Dianthus

Commonly called pinks
Sweet William brightens borders
Dead-head for more blooms

Yarrow

Thin, feathery leaves
Deep red, flat topped flower heads
Prosperes in poor soil

Clematis

Nine inch wide blossoms
Climbing up through the ivy
Petals fall too soon

Wisteria

Tenacious tendrils
Scrambling over everything
Never-ending growth

Peach

Profusion of pink
Branches genuflect with weight
Many go to waste

Apple

Rubicund sweet pome

It understands gravity
American pie

Kelly Kurt

My God! (Senryu)

When the devil's raised
All sanity is missing
Children know better

Kelly Kurt

My Heart

I remember my heart
Not like a conclusion
It held a certain sway
Beared in mind incrementally
Currently not understood
It seems to have steered
Was that me?
Am I now the pilot?

Kelly Kurt

My Homophonic Madness

If I could, I'd like to use my brain
Picking coconuts using a crane
This isn't just lazy
You know that I'm crazy
I catch all of my clownfish IN SEINE

Kelly Kurt

My Life, As A Poem

The pen was first dipped into ink on the day I was born
The initial stroke was broad and indistinct

A few gentle passes, lightly caressed the first line
As the Earth revolved thrice

By the first score of orbits, a couplet was complete
Printed in a juvenile font on papyrus

As the decades passed, the lettering became calligraphy
And the rhymes evolved in dithyrambic fervor

Today I stand as an ongoing sonnet, subject and author
Searching for the last word and awaiting the final serif

Kelly Kurt

My Own Bed

Eleven days away from 'home'
Among friends but in an unfamiliar place
A cushion on the floor to rest my head

Back in my room
My dusty, little room
A timeworn, undersized mattress
Propped up on a rusty frame
Is heaven

Kelly Kurt

My Shadow

Step for step behind me
Never seeing the light of day
But never does it yell at me
For getting in its way
Briefly at the stroke of noon
It hides beneath my feet
But as the dusk approaches
Stretches halfway down the street
I'm not sure where it sleeps at night
But when I seek repose
I always get congested
So perhaps it's up my nose

Kelly Kurt

My Small, Wooden Bench

Sitting outside, on my small wooden bench
The sun has dissolved slowly
Choruses of unseen creatures harmonize in the background
Crickets use this chorale to complement their carol
Summer triangle embellishes the concert
The sweaty day exchanges its oppressiveness
For a moment of buoyancy and vision
Seclusion disperses to the slight breeze
I am amongst millions
Amongst millions!

Kelly Kurt

My Stonehenge

Creeping ever incrementally north
Late winter sun climbs the blue
Finally setting beyond southwestern obstructions
Carrying late afternoon rays through my window
At first, a few fleeting moments of gold
Glaring obliquely at day's end
Auguring shorter nights, and warmth

Kelly Kurt

My Zinnias (Long)

From an early age I noticed that many flowers seemed to have short blooming lives. The more spectacular the flower, the less time it lasted. Petals would fall off in a week or two, leaving behind forlorn stems until frost wilted them to the ground. Some varieties would bloom for quite a while, but they were not really captivating. One day I was given a packet of zinnia seeds by my mother. She would plant her moss roses around the front porch every year and tend a garden out back, where she would intersperse marigolds through the vegetables. I enjoyed lending a hand and was very pleased to have my own bed to tend. After reading the directions printed on the small packet of seeds, I carefully followed them to the last letter. I turned the soil over, added some composted leaves, mixed in a small handful of fertilizer and one by one, placed the seeds every few inches, in several short rows. With a gentle push, using just my forefinger, each seed was buried, to three times its width, and loose soil was brushed over the top. A small white can, with a large circular attachment, filled with very tiny holes, gently sprinkled water over the entire bed, turning the soil a dark brown.

Checking the small plot every day, as an impatient boy, was like waiting for my first moustache hair to sprout. At only eight years old, that was another lifetime away. Eventually, I was rewarded with several small rows of seedlings. The small bed I was granted could not support the number that grew and I had to thin out the extras to give the rest enough room to grow. It seemed tragic to uproot the ones that would need to die, in order for the others to thrive, but my mother assured me that it was necessary, "For the good of the others."

While I'm sure that other boys my age in the neighborhood slept much later during their summer break from school, I would get up with the sun and check on my zinnias, sprinkle them with water, pull weeds and look for any signs of buds.

June would pass until any buds were set, and by then, the paper thin seeds I had barely covered with soil, were two feet tall. When the first flower opened, I was as proud as a new father.

My mother would giggle at my devotion to a ten square foot patch of flowers, but I could tell that she was proud of me for the responsibility I took in tending them. In just another two weeks, I could no longer see the soil in which they grew, because my babies had grown so large, bushy and covered in flowers, that they blocked my view.

My zinnias were still going strong at the end of August when I had to return to school, but I would visit them every day before I left and after I came back home. As the year progressed and the days shortened, my zinnias started to fade. Eventually, they were entirely dead, and stood as tall, dry, brown

skeletons. I could not bring myself to pull them out, so they would stand and collect frost until the first heavy snow toppled and buried them.

It was only when time came to plant again that I could clear out the old bed to make room for the new. This was the pattern, the routine, for years to come. One June, some fifteen years later, I moved into my first apartment and had no place to grow my zinnias. From my second floor window, I could look out and see pavement, other buildings and a few trees, but nothing of color, except for the endless stream of cars that provided nothing but noise. A month of summers passed by without zinnias. They were all but forgotten.

An early spring storm with strong winds left the yard scattered with debris from the neighborhood. I was fifty-one years old and as the caretaker for an old church, lived in a small basement room. While cleaning up the mess, I found a large packet of zinnia seeds. A flood of memories came rushing back and I wondered for a moment, if somehow, my long passed mother had sent the seeds as a sign, or a gift, to put touch of wonder and joy back into my life.

When I finished cleaning up the grounds, I prepared a six by four foot bed and planted the seeds. With the anticipation of an eight year old, I checked the bed daily, watering generously and waiting for signs of life. When they finally broke the surface, I was elated, and as I learned as a boy, I thinned them out to enhance the prosperity of the ones that remained.

The soil in which they grew had been left fallow, for perhaps decades and was rich, so the zinnias grew quickly and formed a mass that appeared as a single, lush organism.

When the first bud opened, displaying a vivid red hue, I could not contain myself. My smile was so broad and lasted so long that it hurt my face.

The fourth of July came and as I watched the local fireworks display, I thought, this has nothing on my exuberant bed of zinnias.

Too many to count, the four inch pompoms produced colors that defied description.

On hot afternoons, I would go out and without even trying, block out the noise of traffic and lawnmowers, while wide eyed, staring at what only three months prior, were weightless seeds.

Flying insects of every color, size and form were constant visitors. Hummingbirds would also call on the blooms, hovering in a blur of wingbeats, adding their iridescence to the circus of color.

It was the butterflies tho, that gave the scene its finishing touch. Silently, they would circle in random flight, landing for a moment and then taking off again, flitting in the wind, deciding which bloom looked most appetizing. Alighting on one flower after another, they would unfurl their tongues and feed; wings folded together, occasionally flapping to keep balance against a breeze. Monarchs, swallowtails of blue and yellow, Large, small, red, white and pastel colored varieties of winged innocence and joy, came and went with a freedom that no

man truly has.

Summer days are as fleeting as butterfly visits. So as breezes turned from southerly to northerly, the butterflies followed them.

My zinnias, lacking the sunlight they required, and missing their fanciful guests, gave up their color and became October's.

Before the first frost came, I decided that the flowers I had so missed, and after so many years had come home to please me, should live on.

On a sunny, but rather cold autumn day, I went out to collect the dried up blooms that were full of seeds. One by one, I snipped them off with scissors and placed them in two, large paper sacks.

I brought the desiccated flower heads into the church and scooped out a handful at a time, spreading them out on the kitchen counter. Pulling on the petals, I dislodged them from their base, exposing the thin, black seeds. With another tug, I loosed the seeds and deposited them in a plastic sandwich bag. I had tuned my radio to my favorite classic rock station, entertaining me during the protracted process. An hour into deseeding, I heard the latest weather report; snow! I thought that, as long as I could remember back, winters seemed to start much later and be milder than those of my youth. How appropriate, it seemed, that after my first season of zinnias in a very long time that the nostalgia should continue with an early snowfall.

My lower back was aching from standing in place for so long. I was most definitely not a youth anymore, despite my inner eight year old's eagerness. It took over three hours to free all of the seeds. At least a thousand filled the bag, which was bulging with potential. I placed the bag into the refrigerator to store for four months.

That winter was unusually harsh. In fact, we set an all-time, record low in mid-January. Bored, and tired of shoveling, and even just seeing snow, I took the zinnia seeds out of storage on a rather dreary, late February afternoon. Before the ground froze, I had filled two, five gallon buckets with soil and stored them in a closet for just this day. I filled over one hundred, small, grey pots with the dirt and sprinkled half a dozen seeds in each. Then, with handfuls of the remaining dirt, I lightly covered the seeds. I watered them in, using a spray bottle, set to a fine mist, so as not to uncover the freshly sown seeds. I placed the pots in deep windowsills and began my vigil.

It took over two weeks before the first, barely noticeable, pale sprout breached the surface, wearing its seed coat as a hat. In each of the following few days, more and more appeared. Less than half of the pots ended up being successful in germinating though, and over the course of the next week, twenty of the weaker seedlings seemed to just evaporate. But the strong, vital ones soon donned true leaves and bent to follow the sun. Thirty-two seedlings remained and I centralized them in one windowsill of my room. A second generation was well under way.

Being a caretaker for a 153 year old rural church is not as glamorous as it sounds. Most days are spent in solitude with little to do, especially in winter. The church's congregation had dwindled through the years until not enough people remained to keep it open. Now, several years later, Friends of mine had purchased it, and with my help, renovated it for use as a wedding chapel. Even the wedding business did not often fill the glorious building. One, sometimes two Saturdays a month were there any goings on.

The zinnias were only eleven feet from where I sat most days, reading science and philosophy books and writing poetry. Almost always in sight, it was hard to recognize growth, but with careful, devoted attention, they had become ten inch tall, leafy plants by the end of May. By that time, the tulips, lilies, irises and other spring flowers had given their few weeks of beauty and were left standing topless. It was time to bring my zinnias outside, to cover their shame.

I prepared several beds for planting that year. It took the better part of the morning to dig, plant, mulch and water in all thirty-two zinnias. With fresh soil, ample room for unrestrained root growth and plentiful, unfiltered sunlight, the lanky plants grew at an accelerated rate. In just three weeks they tripled their height and the first bud had opened, revealing a single ring of riotous red encircling the stamen. Day by day, more opened and added concentric rows of overlapping petals, cascading into large pompoms that punctuated the wealth of emerald foliage below them.

Mid-August brought a heat wave. Temperatures rose to the low one hundreds. Just standing, admiring my zinnias was enough to make my forehead bead with sweat. For a moment, I wished that a little snow would fall to cool me. The heat that year lasted through September and even into October with only a few, short breaks. Little rain fell as well and I had to water daily to keep the leaves and nearly five foot stems from shriveling before their time. But their time did come. By the second week of October, daylight had waned and my zinnias had reached the end of that year's cycle.

On the last Tuesday of that month, just a few days before Halloween, I went out to the flowerbeds again. My zinnias had stood there for more than two weeks, slumped and brown. The wind was blowing them from side to side, making a noise like crumpling paper as the dry leaves bumped together, some breaking off and cartwheeling across the yard. As I had done the previous year, I collected all of the dried flower heads in brown paper bags.

This year was the sixth generation of zinnias from that original, windborne gift of seeds. I have four or five more weeks to enjoy their color before once again reaping what will become next year's bliss.

Kelly Kurt

9/06/14

Kelly Kurt

Myths (Senryu Series)

Aphrodite

Goddess of beauty
Roman counterpart, Venus
Frequent lover miles

Durga

Sprung forth fully grown
Eighteen arms slew Mahisha
Rode on a lion

Leprechauns

Small, magical men
Hidden gold at rainbow's end
Whiskey loving sprites

Ragnarok

Old world's last battle
Odin fighting against Loki
The new world begins

Zarathustra

His birth was foretold
Ancestor of religions
First mono theist

Cupid

Roman god of love
Arrows unite and divide
Should mind his business

The Nine Muses

The daughters of Zeus

Ruled over arts and science
Pray to them, poets

Kelly Kurt

Nachos (Limerick)

I just ate a whole plate of nachos
Basically a crumbled up taco
Thought I'd be clever
Heaped on hot peppers
I'm now feeling much less than macho

Kelly Kurt

Nap (Tanka)

Early afternoon
Ennui, blood sugar dwindling
Little sleep last night
A need to recharge vigor
Twenty minutes will suffice

Kelly Kurt

Narcissism (Limerick)

A bone to a scholar I will throw
You're the third smartest person I know
A compliment you'd think
But herein lies the kink
After me, that number didn't grow

Kelly Kurt

Naughty Saudi (Arabia)

Theocratic, Fascist state
Indulged, and powered by oil
Befriended by sycophants
Resources, blinding the West
Human rights, nonexistent
An ISIS that succeeded
A World that failed

Kelly Kurt

Navel Battle (Limerick)

They say Adam was the first of us
Believers will put up quite a fuss
When queried, they are torn
If he was made, not born
Why did he have an umbilicus?

Kelly Kurt

Nebulous Firs (Haiku)

Looming sentinels
Outlines, backlit by headlamps
Evergreens in fog

Kelly Kurt

Neck And Neck (Limerick)

Two silkworms decided they would vie
To catch a lovely debutante's eye
The loser of the race
Would wind up a disgrace
But they both ended up in a tie

Kelly Kurt

Needle Blanket

At 42° North latitude in middle USA
Seasons can change overnight
A heavy rain and strong south wind
Can melt a foot of snow in hours
Boom! Spring
Robins magically appear
Crocuses are ready, with purple banners

A tropical end to September teased
Summer thrived despite its age
Wham! Autumn
Jet stream suddenly sags south
Canada exhales on her neighbor
Two large, old pines felt it too
Shedding needles, mimicking the imminent snow

Kelly Kurt

Neighbors (Haiku)

Neighbors are people
If that describes you as well
You know what to do

Kelly Kurt

Never

Never be afraid to say "I love you."
But never speak before you think
Never give up before you try
But never live life on the brink
There are many things you should never do
Like saying "Never say never."
No matter how strongly you feel
It's a long time til forever

Kelly Kurt

Never The Twain... (Limerick)

Politicians I cannot abide
Hogwash flows when their mouths open wide
It's much more than uncouth
Speak your mind, tell the truth!
As the two have yet to coincide

Kelly Kurt

New Flavor Of Quark (Limerick)

A collider's proton injector
Sends particles on a new vector
High-speed proton stream zips
Cooking up fission chips
Taste tested down at the detector

Kelly Kurt

Night In An Empty Church

Civil war soldiers said their goodbyes here
Brides, in their flowing white gowns, marked their happiest days here
Countless masses and funerals for sixteen decades were held here
Tonight, empty, the hollow church weeps silence
Thick stone walls hold the chill
Stained glass distorts moon beams into phantasms
Walking up the spiral staircase, lonely creaks denote my every step
Seated, in the back row of pews, I hear the voluminous chapel hiss
Like the whispers of the long gone congregation
For thirty minutes, alone in the dark, I meditate
The old cherry wood pew, although cold against my skin
Hugs me warmly, as a mother would her child
That is what the old church building must think of me
I have lived here for nine years
Taking care of her
At night she is soothing, comforting, pacifying in her humble stillness
The old, fragile windows heave in a breeze like a raspy sigh
And rouse me from my solipsistic reverie
Slowly, down the dark steps, I unwind
Across the empty basement and to my room
Another night in an empty church

Kelly Kurt

No Know

Is there a limit to knowledge?
If so, where do we stand?
Some would say we're approaching
Grand unified theories
Philosophical revelations
Medical breakthroughs
What will one hundred years bring?
Five hundred?
Fifty thousand?
What about fifty million?
Will humans still have questions then?
If so
We
Now
Are idiots

Kelly Kurt

No One

The brightest star in the firmament
Cannot illuminate the blackness alone
The most joyful lilt in the annals of music
Will not keep feet jubilant indefinitely
No single work of poetry or painting
Can beguile one and all imperishably
No one of any physical essence is enough
To achieve ascendancy in perpetuity
Not a pretext for dispiritedness
But a call to join the chorus

Kelly Kurt

No Particular Need

I don't have to be civilized
At least when I'm by myself
Plates just need washing if used
Unmade Beds are crawled back into every night
What is a hairbrush?
Same socks, five days running
A week, or more, without uttering a word; not unusual
I am an animal
But I am not a beast

Kelly Kurt

No Plan Bee (Tanka)

Limited sort, we
Reliant on nature's web
Pollinators tend
If like others, they die out
How can they be supplanted?

Kelly Kurt

No Problem

A friend of mine, an archetypal, little old lady
Stopped by, in obvious distress
Said she couldn't open the door to her shop
I went downtown with her to see if I could help
She gave me the key and I jiggled it and wiggled it
But the lock would not turn
Now, distressed myself, and wanting to be a knight
I returned her keys and told her to keep trying
I was going to go around back and try something
A large, deep window well, covered by a porch
Overgrown with weeds, hid a basement window
I crawled down into the pit and removed the screen
Providentially, the narrow window was not locked
I slid it open to its full aperture, a gaping fifteen inches
I don't know what, or if I was thinking at that point
I tried to go in head first
My shoulders were much too wide so I turned 45 degrees
Now my torso was in but my hips could not pass
Backing out, my shoulders became wedged
At first I chuckled, but soon, almost panicked
After a minute of contorting, I managed to extract myself
My knees were bruised and my back wrenched
But then, wiser and still determined, I proceeded in, feet first
Rather ungracefully, I got my left leg through
My upper body, lying in the damp dirt
Squirring like a python that just ate a boar
I fell four feet, to the pitch black basement floor
Success! ?
I stumbled around and found the stairs
Opening the door to the sun-bathed shop
Half blinded, and battered, I made my way to the front door
I released the dead-bolt and let my friend in
She thanked me for my help
Out of breath still, and with incongruous sincerity
I replied
"No problem."

Kelly Kurt

No Rules (Limerick)

The difference twixt them and all of us
Goes something along the lines as thus
The rich is lawmakers
The rest is slaw makers
Plurality is current nonplus

Kelly Kurt

No Substitute

In this world of relentless stimuli
Receive on demand
Medicated comfort
Inspiration deprived
Searchers of solace
There is no substitute
For silence

Kelly Kurt

No Worries

Concern is laudable
Understanding there is a dilemma
Considering options
Foreseeing implications
Occasionally, nothing can be done
Accepting that should be effortless
Anxiety serves no useful function
Yet it is not rare

Kelly Kurt

Noah Way! (Limerick)

A six-hundred year old and his kin
Were the only humans without sin
So god killed all the rest
(Guess he thought it was best)
A thing Christians now count as a win

Kelly Kurt

Non Sequitur (Senryu)

If answers aren't found
A likely explanation...
The questions were wrong

Kelly Kurt

Normal?

The best way to define what is normal

Deduce what it's all about□

Take people from the ends of the spectrum

Add them and average them out

Kelly Kurt

Nose Hair

Sprouting like Kudzu in my beak
Protruding out of both nares
Old age has brought them to a peak
These kinky, filtering hairs
Scissors don't feel right in my nose
So they're seized with my fingers
Their roots seem to spread to my toes
The yanking sting, it lingers
It won't take long til they grow back
(That's not the worst of my fears)
In the mirror, I've been keeping track
Of the forest in my ears

Kelly Kurt

Not Yet Born

How could I know at twenty-one
The degree that love could reach
For my children were not yet born

Kelly Kurt

Nothing That A Painful And Expensive Treatment Can't Prolong (Limerick)

Not everyone on Earth agrees
Waiving treatment to do what you please
If you're not at all sure
That the horrendous cure
Is any better than the disease

Kelly Kurt

Nothing To Lose (Senryu)

Some call it freedom
Most describe it as a hell
It often is both

Kelly Kurt

Nous

The sense that something is missing

Is it real?

What is real?

Physical 'laws'?

Mathematics?

Subjective perception?

I love

I believe I am loved

But seldom do I feel it

When I think I do, is it imagined?

Something is missing

Somebody?

I may never know

Little makes sense

Sense?

Kelly Kurt

Now (Senryu)

No demarcation
A persistent illusion
A conscious mirage

Kelly Kurt

Now!

I am by no means starving
Undernourished? Perhaps
I don't anticipate hunger
Late in the day, it manifests
An almost instant pang
Cabinet and refrigerator doors slung open
Rubbernecking
Slight considerations
Ambiguity
No resolve
Now!
Not after preparation
Not after time
Now!
Planning lasts one day
Appetite is not reasonable
Now!
Microwaveable, cold
Now!
I stare longer than it would take
Sometimes, I just give up
Others, I consume the absurd
Lucky to have the absurd on hand

Kelly Kurt

Numbers

There are many ways of looking at things
For some reason, I often like to use numbers
Figures can manipulate impressions
And when thinking about life
How much is gone, how much is left
Quantities can influence notions of quality
 At seventeen, you have nearly eighty percent left
No concern about idling a few days away
Four and a half times remaining
For me, at fifty-seven, I have only twenty-five percent
A sense of urgency?
Less so, if I consider that, that percentage
Also represents an entire third of my life so far
 Fifty-seven seems like so small a number though
Just six percent of the time since year one
But today, I am 20,994 days old; 3,000 weeks
One point eight billion seconds
(Not counting conception to birth)
Days are numbered
Numbers are relative

[*Based upon average American male lifespan of 76]

Kelly Kurt

Numbers (Senryu Series)

Nine

Regular number
Can't count to ten without it
Odd and wonderful

Eight

Two, in its cubed form
Homonym for past repast
Third countdown number

Seven

Seas, continents, sins
The heaven where kissing reigns
Fourth among the primes

Six

The sense that predicts
Amendment for quick trial
Sticks to elevate

Five

Books in the Torah
The original Jacksons
Fingers on a hand

Four

Chambers in the heart
Fundamental force count
Letters of profane

Three

Triangular sides
A crowd when romance impends
Cheers for the hero

Two

Helium protons
Almost as lonely as one
Count of turtle doves

One

The first year of count
Binary antagonist
Symbolic union

Zero

Goose egg's metaphor
More meaningful than nothing
Symbolic circle

Kelly Kurt

Numbers Are

Pi

Prime

Irrational

Imaginary

Invented

Discovered

Eternal

Kelly Kurt

Nuts (Senryu Series)

Almonds

Edible oval
Unusual source of milk
Exotic eye shape

Cashew

Shaped like a kidney
Must roast to rid of toxins
But not credit you

Coconut

Versatile large seed
Tropical tree bombardier
Perched upon my neck

Hazelnut

Also called Filbert
Frangelico flavoring
60s TV maid?

Macadamia

Poisonous to dogs
Valuable Australian crop
Scholarly nut life?

Pecan

Hickory species
Once known as Illinois nuts
Tin for green legume?

Pistachio

Middle-eastern treat

Baklava baker's basic
Just fun to pronounce

Walnut

Resembles a brain
Humpty Dumpty descriptor
Texture for brownies

Kelly Kurt

Oblivion (Haiku)

Counting every step
Even stride assures meter
I am almost there

Kelly Kurt

Obliviousness

Repeating mistakes is a form of insanity
A troublesome trait since the dawn of humanity
It's not a matter of abnormal psychology
There is not any underlying pathology
A consequence of societal positioning
And repercussion of communal conditioning
After innumerable cases of being burned
Extremely little, throughout history, has been learned

Kelly Kurt

Obvious Last Words (Limerick)

The wise man got it right on the dime
Using more reason than he did rhyme
It was on his deathbed
That he pointedly said
"I'm the last to die in my lifetime";

Kelly Kurt

Occupational Hazard (Limerick)

Pretty girls have long made him stutter
No control over words he'd utter
The bowling lane owner
Will remain a loner
'Cause his mind's always in the gutter

Kelly Kurt

Ocean Devotion (Limerick)

The marine biologist's big grin
Is the product of a recent win
To impress a sea date
He chose to translate
The works of Shakespeare into dolphin

Kelly Kurt

October Drizzle

Sullen skies weep with futility
Gelid droplets vainly attempt to revive
Dripping eaves reckon the volume with assonance
Cold, cold water
Emissary of life
Little but dampens this day

Kelly Kurt

Ode To A Concrete Floor

Poured in a slab, four inches thick
Troweled level and allowed to dry
Oh, concrete floor, when I fall on you
You bring a tear to my eye

On summer days you sweat with me
In humidity and heat
In frigid winter, like Jack Frost
You chill my stockinged feet

Oh, concrete floor, just yesterday
You broke my favorite mug
If I had some extra cash
I'd cover you with a rug

Kelly Kurt

Ode To A Photon

Duality suits you
No mass at rest
Mess with the slits
Be discrete
Probabilistic
Particle
Wave
As a boson you rock
Uncertainty is sexy
Your 600 THz frequency
Lights up my life

Kelly Kurt

Ode To Earth's Magnetic Field

Spinning, molten iron, outer core
Heat left over from formation
Kept alive by radioactive decay
Coriolis force dynamo, aligning poles
Extending force lines to the magnetosphere
Shielding us from charged particles and cosmic rays
Protecting the ozone layer
Guiding explorers' compasses
Creating brilliant aurorae
Planetary Immune system
Guardian
Knight in shining armor

Kelly Kurt

Old Fool (Tanka)

Grey hair, earned with time
Four-inch long chin ornament
Age indicator
Dye restores youthful color
Stained fingers reveal folly

Kelly Kurt

Old Man (Haiku)

Ninety year old man
All your wrinkles have been earned
Wear them with due pride

Kelly Kurt

Old Man Noises

The only way to describe the sounds
Is through onomatopoeia
For no English words can represent
Or give an authentic idea
My hips go crinck, my spine goes skrink
When hungry, my stomach gurrewlow
When squatting into my easy chair
I boisterously groan; ahroughlo
While climbing up a flight of stairs
My knees both skrak to my amusement
For the more sensitive readers' sake
I will not describe bowel movements

Kelly Kurt

Old Sneakers

A long time ago they were pristine
Crisp treads gripped the ground
Pliant uppers embraced my feet
They slipped on like a second skin
With a vinyl, "new car smell"
Now, they are a greyish brown
The soles worn, nearly smooth
Sides stretched, seams torn□
An almost visible stench
I don't know how much longer they'll last
But I like my old sneakers

Kelly Kurt

Omnipotent Limitations (Limerick)

If I had just one question to ask
Without needing to don a fool's mask
I'd enquire of God
Could he make zero odd
And see if he was up to the task

I have yet to hear anything back
Perhaps his magic is out of whack
Tho it's hard to reply
From way up in the sky
When your realness is at such a lack

Kelly Kurt

Omnipresent Time

Flowing?

Directional?

Perceived? Personal?

Useful?

If not for time

Everything would happen all at once!

Maybe it does, despite the illusion

Kelly Kurt

On The Stoop

On the stoop of the house next door
Throughout the late afternoon
Sits a lonesome old figure with his dog
His body never moves, but his head turns
Following the cars that pass by
Pedestrians cross the street before they near
Sidestepping any interaction
Returning home after a short walk
I nod my head in acknowledgement
"Lovely day to sit on the porch." I say
"Like a Norman Rockwell painting." He replies
We both smile

Kelly Kurt

Once?

Once, that's all?
I thought it was just the first
Many more were supposed to follow
Weren't they?
It didn't even last that long
The only one, now it's gone
Couldn't there be just one more?
Why didn't I know?
I could have savored it
I guess I blew it
You, yes you!
When your once comes
Enjoy it!
It only comes once

Kelly Kurt

One

The average religious person believes in one faith, one god; his.
There are literally thousands of others that he denies.
The only difference between that person and an atheist is ONE.
They believe in just one less god than the insincere saints.

Kelly Kurt

One (Haiku)

Lowest whole digit
Can divide any number
Leaving it intact

Kelly Kurt

One Flu Over The Cuckoo's Nest (Limerick)

Something Foreign is inside my nose
Like Rudolph's, it makes a noise and glows
Could be a Russian plot
That is unless it's snot
Either way, the situation blows

Kelly Kurt

One Year On Poemhunter

Once around the sun
Forty-three score and two poems
So many new friends

Kelly Kurt

One-Thousand Gods (Limerick)

I am tired of hearing about gods
Ones that vengefully wield their rods
Then sit back and snicker
As billions still bicker
That theirs is the truth outside all odds

Kelly Kurt

Only Feathers

Out in the countryside, wildlife is abundant
From every kind of insect and mammal
To reptiles, amphibians and avian life
The roadsides are littered with carcasses
From unfortunate interactions with cars
Windshields are peppered in the summer
With thousands of squashed bugs
But three or four times a year, sometimes many more
There is a vestige of another clash
Ornamenting the east side of my yard

I have never seen the skirmish

An old, abandoned building stands nearby
Hundreds of pigeons call it home
They eddy in tight flocks, like schooling fish
Their loud flapping, occasionally startling me
The cooing that echoes from their hidden perches
Sounds like a mass haunting of drunken gnomes

High above, circling effortlessly, large birds of prey stalk
Hawks and turkey vultures, looming large, even at altitude
Wingtips flutter but never beat
Eyes like radar guided telescopes, scan single-mindedly
Evolution has perfected their vehicle and profession
Instinct and hunger drive their exploits

I have never seen the skirmish

I have never seen any blood on the grass
I have never seen a single bone on the ground
Only feathers
Lots of feathers

Kelly Kurt

Onomatopoeia (Senryu Series)

Bang

A gunshot rings out
Hammer, driving its point home
A good way to finish

Splash

Liquid displacement
Child's puddle crossing technique
Burst onto the scene

Ding

Half a doorbell sound
A gong's attempt to whisper
Small dent in a car

Crack

Bad luck for mirrors
Whip's supersonic product
Smart-aleck's comment

Whoosh

Slipstream circumstance
Usain Bolt is just a blur
Sibilance sample

Roar

Tumult of a crowd
Large predator's loud warning
Unrestrained laughter

Click

Computer mouse stroke

No bullet in the chamber
It all makes sense now

Thud

Heavy, dull impact
Like my head hitting the ground
After writing this

Kelly Kurt

Onset

On its closest approach to the sun
Tilt negates proximity
Northern hemisphere sags under dense, cold air
The accumulated warmth of summer
Stored in soil and rock
Slowly dissipates
Snow fields swell, quickening the cooling
Reflecting warming light back into space
Longer nights passively participate in the collusion
Set in motion eons ago
Cyclically repeated
Winter, the protracted season, commences

Kelly Kurt

Opening Volley

The first of the snowflakes appeared
Petite and lonesome vanguard
Unimposing as it drifted unhurriedly
Ornamenting the asphalt pro tem
Silent speck of a puddle in an instant
The legions, noting its sacrifice
Launched their massive assault
Stripping the air of its lingering heat
Piling the fallen forces in bitter blankets
The war zone, stark and pallid
Calf deep at first light

Kelly Kurt

Opinion, Belief, Hope - Reality

What is it that you believe?
Have you dissected the fundamentals?
Is it more opinion and hope?
Belief is a confidence
A trust, a faith
I believe that the sun will 'rise'
I have hope that it will
Even a probabilistic trust and expectation
All based on personal experience
The experience of all others
And physical, mathematical empiricism
I apply this to all matters of corporeality
Science, understanding, logic and sense
Put your 'faith' in yourself
Nowhere else

Kelly Kurt

Oppressive (Haiku)

Still breezes enflame
Pooling sweat blisters seared eyes
Brackish neck haloes

Kelly Kurt

Optical Allusion

Do I reside behind my eyes
My primary source of experience
Can I believe everything I see
Looking into the eyes of others
Is there something I can tell
Windows or cameras
Crystal balls or mirrors

Kelly Kurt

Optimism (Tanka)

The snow is melting
Last day of January
Not what most call warm
More cold is surely pending
But spring is coming to mind

Kelly Kurt

Optimistic Sequel

No such things as prophets
No such things as gods
No Jesus or mother Mary
No theists all at odds
Books of lies and evil
Will eventually decay
Until each remaining god
Fades eternally away
Then reason, love and union
Will finally rule the Earth
And all the heirs of primates
Can begin to show true worth

Kelly Kurt

Or A Lighter (Limerick)

I learned about this from young Kevin
He figured it out by age seven
If you have the desire
To light Saint Elmo's fire
Use a match that was made in heaven

Kelly Kurt

Original Reproduction (Limerick)

There is only one explanation
After years of barren frustration
MOMA curator's son
What procedure was done?
Art official insemination

Kelly Kurt

Original Sin

I have transgressed
I have taken things
I have lusted
I have envied
I have lied
I have tried to redeem myself
Make amends
Atone and repair
I am contrite
Doing my best to be better
But the stain of birth remains
Damned for existing
Feckless
It's not my fault
It's not your fault
It is supreme manipulation
Propaganda
We are innocent

Kelly Kurt

Orphaned Poet

Given birth to by poetry, he lives
Encircled by cavorting words
Plucking them like fruit
Arranging them like notes
Loving them like soulmates
Proffering his handiworks to his parents
Being rewarded with rapture

One day, the words forsook him
Apollo and Erato were dead
The poet was orphaned
Joy vanished

Kelly Kurt

Orwellian Horrors (Senryu Series)

Thought Police

Sounds a lot like God
Punishing lack of free will
Can I see your badge?

Surveillance Cameras

On every street corner
I feel like I'm being watched
Privacy usurped

Rewritten History

The victor's version
The 'good guys' can do no wrong
History is lies

Patriot Act

Rights prove meaningless
Constitution discounted
And it doesn't work

Urban Decay

Inner city woe
Disappearing middle class
Communal collapse

Propaganda

Disinformation
Keep the people ignorant
Patriotism

Partisanship

Narrow-mindedness

Blinded, biased devotion
Opposite spectrums

Interventions

For the good of whom?
Unwanted interference
Economic yoke

Lobbyists

Selfish supplicants
Influence through inducement
Representation?

Kelly Kurt

Our Creators

Hydrogen, Oxygen, Nitrogen and Carbon
The most abundant elements in the universe
Created in the cataclysmic death of large stars
Spread across the vastness of time and space
To reassemble as planets, trees, oceans and you
Inanimate suns, nurturers of matter
Providers of warmth, light and energy
Parents to all you see
If anything should deserve our admiration
Respect, devotion and veneration
It is the stars

Kelly Kurt

Our Similarities

Presidents, Popes, rich men, kings
Beggars, philosophers, all men
Each day, among dozens of things
It happens again and again
It can't be helped, 'tho one may try
Whether lobster or peasants' soup
If it goes in you, by-and-by
It exits your anus as poop

Kelly Kurt

Out Of Line (Limerick)

The internet connection is down
On my face, is plastered a frown
I cannot get my 'high'
From 'borrowing' Wi-Fi
That is broadcast from somewhere in town

Kelly Kurt

Out Of Your Mind (Senryu)

Aging memories
Fade like shadows in darkness
Good and bad alike

Kelly Kurt

Outstanding Debt

Hundreds of billions of galaxies
Each with a hundred billion stars
Multiple planets circling most
Exploding suns seed interstellar space
Providing heavy elements for creation
Comets prowl and impact
Hydrating parched spheres
Electromagnetic radiation
Supplying energy for life
Orbiting moons
Afford tides and shepherd rings
Dark matter holds galaxies together
Black holes vacuum detritus
And foster stellar nurseries
All matter and energy
Purposefully employed and exploited
What contribution Earth?
Fortunate rock
Gifted with position, provisions, circumstances, intelligence
Immeasurable potential
Littering orbital space with wreckage
Squandering its auspicious advantage
Defaulting on its fortune
No trace of noblesse oblige
Gluttonous, myopic and miscarrying
A disappointment

Kelly Kurt

Over The Top (Limerick)

To me it doesn't make any sense
The way scout master Smith always vents
Twelve troops and six shelters
And each time he welters
His solution is just two in tents

Kelly Kurt

Overcast (Limerick)

It seems to me more strange than funny
Could be that he's just a dumb bunny
Doesn't come out at night□
There's no doubt he's not bright
Yet his dad keeps calling him sonny

Kelly Kurt

Overkill (Limerick)

To wade through the volume is so hard
But when the list is jam packed with lard
It gets quite frustrating
with little worth rating
Like counting each grass shoot in the yard

Kelly Kurt

Overlooked Poet (Limerick)

Just call it an educated guess
But if a limerick isn't a mess
Then some brandy was sipped
And some oldies were quipped
One more work of art fresh from Wes

Kelly Kurt

Overreaction (Limerick)

A young guitar player became sick
Of constantly misplacing his pick
He bought an entire case
Pasted them to his face
Now he'll never miss another lick

Kelly Kurt

Overthink

What did that mean?
Was it a crude innuendo? □
Can I believe what was said?
My mind can't rest until I know
Can I know?

Is this how it is done?
Is there a better way?
It seems so simple
But nothing is that easy
There must be another answer

Why can't I rest?
Occam can't be right
Simplicity doesn't exist
Insinuation is insidious
Do I overthink?

Kelly Kurt

Oxymorons (Senryu Series)

A Fine Mess

So stop your whining
That's what I was going for
Laurel and Hardy?

Military Intelligence

That would be a first
Tell that to dead civilians
Arm the enemy

Athletic Scholarship

I are in college
Subsidized with student groans
Crayon art degree

Jumbo Shrimp

Overweight midget
A pachyderm crustacean?
More cocktail sauce please

Congressional Ethics

In what universe?
Do I have a bridge for you!
Once upon a time

Kelly Kurt

Pachyderm Pageantry (Limerick)

A heroic, striped rhinoceros
Received a medal, pre-posthumous
Though he wasn't quite dead
It was pinned to his head
Touching, but a tad preposterous

Kelly Kurt

Pain (Haiku)

Faithful reminder
To avoid in the future
That which produced it

Kelly Kurt

Pain (Tanka)

Nerve impulses race
Agony seems immortal
Minutes become years
Wretched body might endure
Abject spirit surrenders

Kelly Kurt

Pandora's Other Box

Contents of an empty box
It overflows with space
It stores the one remaining hope
Of the entire human race
Within its confines lie would-be hopes
Nothing tangible, simply dreams
Mankind's only hope to survive
And in our eyes it gleams
The box, it opens, I look inside
From the emptiness flies a dove
It tells us how to save ourselves
By remembering how to love

Kelly Kurt

Panorama's Price

Pendent, leaden, clouds span the horizons
Light and heat reflect back towards their origin
Softening and dimming vista and temperament
Even a modest breeze strips endothermic warmth
Extremities sacrifice blood for the core
Late October charges for her gifts

Kelly Kurt

Pansy (Haiku)

Bright velvet rainbows
Cheering penumbral gardens
Sensitive to heat

Kelly Kurt

Pants On Fire (Limerick)

My ocular boasts often draw sneers
Exaggeration, claim all my peers
My stated position
Peripheral vision
I can easily see both my ears

Kelly Kurt

Paroxysm (Limerick)

There is a new poet named Parekh
Who uploads his poetry breakneck
Several hundred per day
Has he that much to say?
It is near impossible to check

Kelly Kurt

Party Pooper (Limerick)

What's that odor, it smells like a rump
Did a sick orang just take a dump
It has befouled the States
I know London relates
Cause in England a fart's called a Trump

Kelly Kurt

Passing Out

It sounds less pleasant than it is
Spinning, loss of control
But then oblivion
The border is packed with perception
Stretched out, it opens up
Anticipation of respite
With a dash of uncertainty
A recipe for either confusion, or clarity
Morning's light is painful
But welcome
Achieving the state requires damage
Consciously cost effective
Not my first rodeo
Eventually, my last
That time will arrive notwithstanding

Kelly Kurt

Passion (Haiku)

More than desire
Coordinated frenzy
Pilot of Ardor

Kelly Kurt

Past (Haiku)

Forever dwelling
In the while of nevermore
Taxing remembrance

Kelly Kurt

Pasta (Senryu Series)

Macaroni

Short, hollow elbows
Bygone metrosexual
Kids love it with cheese

Fusilli

Corkscrew molded
Sauces cling to the spirals
Tally of inane?

Spaghetti

Italian staple
Lady and the tramp gambit
Ersatz western flick

Vermicelli

It means little worms
Undernourished spaghetti
Renaissance painter?

Ziti

Hollow spaghetti
They have medicine for that
Or just wash your face

Fettuccini

Means little ribbons
Tastes better when it's made fresh
I like mine with shrimp

Lasagna

Wide, thin, wavy sheets

Pizza's main competitor
Don't pronounce the G

Manicotti

Large tube for stuffing
Filled with ricotta and baked
Male of the species?

Farfalle

Looks like a bow tie
Italian for butterflies
Like off of a cliff?

Ravioli

Italian dumpling
Filled with cheese or meat, then crimped
Chef Boyardee, Meh.

Kelly Kurt

Paths (Haiku)

A path split in two
Over and over again
Soon there were millions

Kelly Kurt

Patience (Haiku)

A key advantage□
Always at your disposal
Just ask the tortoise

Kelly Kurt

Patience (Senryu)

Waiting in silence
What will be, right now unknown
In due time, certain

Kelly Kurt

Patience 2 (Haiku)

Time in its own way
Rewarding you in the end
For calm Endurance

Kelly Kurt

Peace

The day has come for dogs to fly
For dripping sap that slowly dries
The owl hoots once for those who know
The orchards fall us down below

To ring the everlasting bell
And sing the tune we know so well
To try to make the slowness fast
So yesterday sinks in the past

These things to do but who knows why
The avalanche drifts slowly by
The birds of prey swoop from their nests
And grab the rabbits wearing vests
Then drop them in the boiling sea
That turns to blood, you drink like tea

The screams of insects can be heard
They echo in the cave of words
In which you sit, inside a cage
You hold a book with just one page
The page, it only has one word
It resonates until it's heard
Then hate will stop and wars will cease
The solitary word is peace

Kelly Kurt

Peek-A-Boo (Senryu)

Wearing our finest
We try to conceal our faults
It is no disguise

Kelly Kurt

Penury

Impecunious existence modifies philosophy
Luxury and comfort aren't even a consideration
Requirements contract to hierarchy
Trappings of life no longer have any hold
Simplicity streamlines
Appreciation for the once insignificant; intensifies
A roof is Extravagance

Kelly Kurt

Perfect Day

What is a perfect day?

Does it involve others?

Can it be spent alone?

Does the weather factor?

Good news, no news?

Accomplishments?

Personal growth?

Music?

Food?

All, some, none, other?

Has there been a perfect day?

That's entirely up to you

Kelly Kurt

Periodically Makes Sense (Limerick)

Some metals are worth more than many
You'll lose a mint choosing just any
Budget legislator
Decreed Cu later
And used zinc for making the penny

Kelly Kurt

Perjuring Paragon

You are faultless, pure
Untouched by frailty
Unspoiled by error
Untainted by iniquity
Entitled to cast stones
Congratulations
You have not yet been caught

Kelly Kurt

Permanence In Practice

Absence is revelatory
An hour, a day, a week or more
Testing endurance, examining emotions
So longs are sentimental
Goodbyes are a lifelong process

Kelly Kurt

Perpetuity

There isn't a lot of traffic in this small town
Pedestrians are even more uncommon
But almost every day
Whether hot, cold, rainy or snowy
An old couple walks past
He is tall but slumped over
She is heavy and walks with a limp
Covering a mere few feet in several seconds
They are in no hurry
They hold each other's hand

Kelly Kurt

Personal Holidays

While the rest of society goes oblivious to them
And marks their calendars with the traditional
I silently commemorate personal holidays
April fifth, my first kiss
July third, when I bought my first house
November first, my first heartbreak

I celebrate the birth anniversaries of my children
And the lesser holidays too
Like Christmas, Thanksgiving and Independence Day
But I honor the memory of memories
On my personal holidays

Kelly Kurt

Personality (Haiku)

Innate temperament
The very essence of you
Everyone values

Kelly Kurt

Philosopher's Stone

The sun returned today
Battling a virus, stuck inside for days
I breached my sequestration
At first, the sun hurt my eyes
But the warmth was medicinal
A wooden bench supported my bones
A concrete slab supported it
Elbows on knees, I hunched over
Spine, nape and crown absorbed infrared
Eyes scanned in the visible spectrum
Bleached surface highlighted the activity
Minute insect life in array
Spots before my eyes
Small, smaller, smallest
Some, perambulating pinheads
All alive
All intent, purposeful, unafraid
I watched for hours
I felt better

Kelly Kurt

Phobias (Senryu Series)

Acrophobia

Heights aren't the problem
It isn't even falling
It's the sudden stop

Agoraphobia

Inside is cozy
Outdoors is full of unknowns
Order in again

Arachnophobia

Damn, they are ugly!
I feel one crawling on me
Basement off limits

Dysmorphophobia

I need to lose weight
Maybe plastic surgery
Do not look at me!

Glossophobia

Speech anxiety
Do not call on me, teacher
Stage actor's nightmare

Phobophobia

I can't live like this
I don't want to be frightened
Nothing to fear but....

Triskaidekaphobia

Fridays are the worst

Horrific baker's dozen
I think I'll stay twelve

Xenophobia

Anything strange scares
No place in diplomacy
You are not like me

Claustrophobia

Get me out of here!
Walls are closing in on me
I'll take the stairway

Kelly Kurt

Phototropism (Haiku)

Behind the work shed
Sunflowers track passing time
Shorter days ahead

Kelly Kurt

Physics Idioms (Senryu Series)

Dark Energy

Red shift measurements
Anti-gravitational
Mushrooms with volume

Big Bang

Singularity
Cosmic microwave background
Expansion of space

Planck Length

Point of a sharp pen
Halfway between this smallest
And universe size

Quantum Tunneling

Probability
Nuclear fusion basic
Effect before cause

Higgs Field

Breaking symmetry
Interaction factors mass
Integral to space

Absolute Zero

Atomic stillness
Least possible entropy
My understanding

Escape Velocity

Breaks the surly bonds

No specific direction
Infinite end, zero

Kelly Kurt

Pi In The Sky

Why does it take the sky?

Nothing

How does something come from that?

Space, time, energy, matter

Not content with being elementary

Dissatisfied with oblivion

Energy froze into plasma

Plasma congealed into atoms

Atoms fused into molecules

Molecules bonded into chemicals

Chemicals blended into amino acids

Proteins, DNA, cells

Life

Cells coalesced into organisms

Organisms evolved, diversified, exploded

Man

Able to discover these details

Measure fundamental forces

Manipulate electricity, magnetism, fusion

Hypothesize on gravity

Conjecture, theorize and conceptualize time

Discover the "God particle" and associated field

Intellectualize consciousness

Is there a fundamental consciousness field

An integral part of space-time

Woven into the fabric of reality?

Standing outside at three in the morning

Neck curved centrifugally toward the interminable cosmos

Psyche borne interiorly

The wonders of nature at my feet

Illuminated by the light of day

Conjure not the same intensity

A brilliant display, but only a manifestation

Why does it take the sky?

Kelly Kurt

Pick Me Up (Limerick)

The yuletide blues had holly down
Only a kiss could upturn her frown
Mistletoe had a kick
More than cheered up that chick
Wearing it on her head like a crown

Kelly Kurt

Pies (Senryu Series)

Apple

Ala mode or cheese
American, so they say
Keeps doctors closer

Pumpkin

Symbol of harvest
Common Thanksgiving desert
Jack-o'-lantern scrap

Cherry

Sweet cherries work best
Decorative lattice crust
Pop song by Warrant

Pecan

Nuts, eggs, corn syrup
Correlated with the south
Two ways to pronounce

Lemon Meringue

Shortbread pastry crust
Eggs play a pivotal role
Baked first, then served chilled

Banana Cream

King of cream pastry
Comedian's projectile
Monkey's birthday wish

Shepherd

Mashed potato crust

Makes good use of leftovers
Don't fill with herdsmen

Kelly Kurt

Piles

On an unseasonably warm, early spring day
The leaves of last year that cluttered the lawn and beds
Were unceremoniously combed into piles
Thirteen, scattered randomly like mini volcanoes
Spent and sore from the effort, I had left them in place
For nearly a week they punctuated the landscape
Today, an uninvited snow fell, thick and heavy
The carbuncles that taunted me for my laziness
And laid in state, as thousands of corpses, sores to the eye
Were now alpine foothills rolling across Tyrolean fields

Kelly Kurt

Pillow Talk

Adequate protection from the elements...Check

Sufficient caloric intake....Check

Access to potable hydration....Check

Free and abundant oxygen supply....Check

My needs are met

What would I need with a place of my own?

What purpose jewels, new or 'fashionable' clothes?

It seems... burdensome

Personal interactions are generally welcome

But neither mandatory nor an ardent desire

"Wouldn't it be nice" is thought from time to time

Momentary daydreams

Quickly dismissed

Evanescent, pointless being only appears enriched by the tangible

What was it that was said about the unexamined life?

Kelly Kurt

Pioneer Dessert-Er (Limerick)

Putting his head to the ground to hear
If an Apache foray was near
Once-brave wagon train scout
Could not detect the rout
Ill-fated results of pie in ear

Kelly Kurt

Pirates (Senryu Series)

Buccaneer

Swashbuckling seaman
Tampa Bay football player
A high price for corn

Cannon

Large barreled weapon
Military armament
Obese TV dick

Sword

Sharp edged, pointed blade
Three Musketeers' preference
The tongue can be one

Eyepatch

Distinguishing mark
Battle injury keepsake
Lost an eye, aye aye

Parrot

Shoulder ornament
Stereotypical pet
Stop mimicking me!

Wooden Leg

Oaken prosthesis
Hard to sneak up on someone
Flotation device?

Jolly Roger

White skull and crossbones

Pennant flown as a warning
Happy skeleton

Walk the Plank

Mutineer's demise
Sadistic entertainment
Fashion show at sea?

Treasure

Don't touch my booty
Buried and marked with an X
My children are mine

Kelly Kurt

Placement.

Where were you born?

When?

No choice

An heir to a throne

A momentary breath of stale air

Accepted as average

A Syrian refugee

A Saudi royal

Somalian destitute

American drone

Who or what

Why is questionable

But Appropriate?

Point of view

Where are you in this caste?

That determines opinion

It matters to few

Those few dominate

Welcome to life

Kelly Kurt

Plants (Haiku)

Enriching the soil
Exhaling pure oxygen
Enhancing all life

Kelly Kurt

Platonic Love

I have a young comrade named Rachel
She is thirty years younger than I
We genuinely love each other
Her support is lavish in supply
I count on her to give me a smile
She counts on me to give her a laugh
When feeling forlorn or despondent
We each are the other's better half
People say that you can't just be friends
With someone of the opposite sex
I feel sad for them, as they're missing
Real love in all of its respects

Kelly Kurt

Playground Equipment (Senryu Series)

Swing

Dangling from a chain
Children first discover flight
It never gets old

Slide

Metal inclined plane
Gravity assists descent
Bakes in summer sun

Monkey Bars

Yes, we are primates
Upper body exercise
Crossed, hand over hand

Carousel

Centrifugal force
Human powered roundabout
My fair lady's ride?

Sand Box

A beach in a box
Bring your own shovel and pail
Stray cats' urinal
Teeter-Totter

What goes up, comes down
Fulcrum placed in the middle
Prepares kids for life

Kelly Kurt

Please Don'T Read This

I wrote it many years ago
And hoped to never read it
I wanted a full and happy life
With nothing to impede it

I predicted then that change would come
For change is all that's sure
That I'd adapt to anything
The belief was premature

Circumstance betrayed my dreams
I still cannot believe it
Most my life now down the drain
With no way to retrieve it

What were the words I wrote that day
In naivety of youth
What can it be I shouldn't read
And does it ring of truth

"I'm happy now, me yet to come
No ocean my spirit can drown
I'm trusting you to persevere
And never let me down"

Kelly Kurt

Pleasure (Haiku)

Primitive instinct
Primary motivator
Coveted reward

Kelly Kurt

Pleiades (Haiku)

Preceding the dawn
Seven sisters in Taurus
Tease the horizon

Kelly Kurt

Poem From The Future

The hairs all over my body pirouetted and laughed
Standing on end amid goose bumps
Butterflies cavorted impatiently in my belly
While the nomad negotiated my being
No experience could have initiated the inspiration
Memory of beauty in all its forms was insufficient
A mere pen would not befit the spectacle
I heard a poem from the future

Kelly Kurt

Poetry?

Cockroaches, pimples and kindness are all but verses of the same poem.

Kelly Kurt

Poison Ivy

In another place, your inherent beauty
Would be appreciated, admired
Verdant undergrowth, tree hugger
Serrated leaves and delicate flowers
Every right to exist
But my hands
My itchy, bumpy hands
Want you out of my shade garden

Kelly Kurt

Poisons (Senryu Series)

Arsenic

Alloys well with lead
Used as wood preservative
Dresses down old lace

Cyanide

Gold mining runoff
Holocaust mass murder role
Suicide spy pill

Strychnine

Used as pesticide
Made from seeds of Asian trees
Causes convulsions

Ricin

Made from castor beans
Biological warfare
Used to kill Markov

Sarin

Deadly nerve agent
Weapon of mass destruction
Saddam slaughtered Kurds

Hemlock

Killed poor Socrates
Plant in carrot family
Vertigo symptoms

Polonium

Radioactive

Named for Marie Curie's home
Exposure killed her

Anthrax

Secreted toxin
Virulent bacteria
Heavy metal band

Kelly Kurt

Polite Disservice

Some people are brutally honest
Speaking truth or opinion with daggers
Perhaps with malice
Perhaps with good intent
But no tact
If regarded as information
And not taken as an affront
This is a valuable resource

Some people say only what you want to hear
Courteously affirming all you do
Giving kind and glowing words
As if encouraging a toddler
Thinking that boosting your ego is supportive
Or thinking it makes them look admirable
Or not thinking at all
A polite disservice

Kelly Kurt

Political Pathogens (Limerick)

Lies and flip-flopping don't inspire us
I'd expect better from Osiris
More annoying than fleas
Like a social disease
They're not a life form, but a virus

Kelly Kurt

Poorly Executed (Limerick)

I cannot believe that he forgot
How to tie his fancy suit's cravat
Twas a horrible sight
When it got pulled too tight
He was strangled as with a garrote

Kelly Kurt

Possessions? (Haiku)

Can you own a thing?
Or does everything own you?
Can you even tell?

Kelly Kurt

Post-Partum Aggression (Limerick)

A Challenge from Wes Vogler to make a poem from this joke:

My wife had a really big baby

How big was it.. It was so big the doctor was afraid to slap it

Size is something this kid doesn't lack

He most likely won't take any flak

No swipe to the bottom

The doctor won't swat him

Baby Hewey just might smack him back

Kelly Kurt

Potatoes (Senryu Series)

French Fries

Oddly, made in grease
Obligatory fast food
Little Parisians?

Baked

Unwrapped for crisp skin
Fully loaded as full meal
Sirloin steak's best friend

Chips

Ruffles have ridges
Nutritionally bankrupt
Come to life with dip

Salad

More of a side dish
Universal picnic fare
Made by the gallon

Tater Tots

Cylindrical spuds
Cafeteria staple
Don't eat on fry day

Soup

Best made with Russets
Add mirepoix for full flavor
Winter comfort food

Hash Browns

Shredded or patties

Signature diner breakfast
Drowning in catsup

Mashed

Gravy volcano
Thanksgiving turkey's cohort
I like mine lumpy

Kelly Kurt

Practice Knowing

Whatever you do
Modifies your brain
Making it better at the situation
Practice the piano
You get better
Neural pathways develop
Reinforcing
Study Latin
Your brain studies Latin better
Practice self-awareness
You become better at knowing yourself
Enriching life's experience

Kelly Kurt

Predator (Haiku)

Stagnant water's edge
Hungry mosquito prowling
Life fluid from flesh

Kelly Kurt

Preparation (Limerick)

The condition he had was adverse
His symptoms continued to get worse
He practiced being dead
With his last breath he said
"If I fall out, promise to re-hearse"

Kelly Kurt

Prepositions (Senryu Series)

Inside

Job done by burglars
Pent up feelings are kept there
Where the sun can't shine

Outside

Most nerds remain here
Skin thin veneer of beauty
Insight site of box

Above

Suspicion's safe spot
Position away from fray
Beyond duty's call

Below

Worse than average
Belt's no-go demarcation
Wrong side of zero

Before

Antecedent time
Makes no sense in Big-Bang terms
I made my bingo!

After

Describes everything
Party following the show
Thought, coming too late

Ahead

Have the advantage

Auspicious schedule status
Guillotine target?

Behind

Late with rent payment
Sanctuary of closed doors
Persuading pat place?

Off

Light switch position
Where one's limits terminate
This milk smells rancid

On

The party's a go
Higher than, and in contact
Free, when with 'The House'

Kelly Kurt

Presence Per Pain

A pin prick
One second of pain
The scale starts at zero
Duration at an instant
Noticed but over, forgotten
Anticipation exacerbates
A scraped knee
Perhaps assessed as a one or a two
The worst is over relatively soon
Residual, a week long reminder
Scar, a decades long ribbon
We each, at present, have an upper benchmark
The most severe to date
The longest lasting
Red hot metal on skin
Hours in labor
New yardstick
Off the charts
Unexplored territory
Fourteen hours of agony
Death considered, preferred
Every instant eternal, internal, experienced fully
Singularly in each moment
Ended
Normalcy, profound
Too soon, taken for granted
As usual

Kelly Kurt

Present Tension (Limerick)

There is no such thing as tomorrow
Time's not something that you can borrow
Why waste any on dread
Best be happy instead
Don't anticipate future sorrow

Kelly Kurt

Presidents (Senryu Series)

Washington

The first on the list
Continental army chief
Nonpartisan head

Jefferson

Lived to eighty-three
John Adams' Vice President
Likely atheist

Jackson

Killed man in duel
Indian removal act
Controversial

William Henry Harrison

Born British subject
Served only thirty-two days
Grandfather of Ben

Lincoln

First Republican
Assassinated by Booth
Born in Kentucky

Theodore Roosevelt

Served with Rough Riders
Progressive, Bull Moose Party
Face on Mount Rushmore

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Elected four times

Afflicted with polio
New deal policies

Harry S Truman

Helped found the U.N.
Dropped bomb on Hiroshima
Allied Israel

Dwight D Eisenhower

Five star general
Left politics to Nixon
Underrated man

Kennedy

Youngest elected
Only Roman Catholic
Aimed us towards the moon

Obama

Born in Hawaii
Economic stimulus
Centrist Democrat

Kelly Kurt

Presto, Pachyderm (Limerick)

To keep game preserves safe from bad guys
There is no need for eyes in the skies
If a poacher needs caught
Here's a down-to-earth thought
Just use the elephant of surprise

Kelly Kurt

Primitive Predilection

Competition is good if it spurs growth in prosperity and knowledge
But for its own sake alone, is a primal remnant, a now pointless display
Divisive, inflammatory
Better than war, but as contested
Comparative, objective and even subjective
Beauty, academics, talent, athletics
Even a spelling bee is as much, or more, to defeat
Than to win
Preparedness should be the aim and the end
Improvement in self for self's sake
Not to do battle

Kelly Kurt

Prioritized Patience

I'd like to play the piano
I have a baby grand at my disposal
What's to stop me?
I have an enviable amount of spare time
A trove of privacy and silence
The genetic fortune of unbridled capability
No appetite for Exasperation
I can spend hours searching for the precise word
Weeks, researching the minutia of obscure subjects
Months, nursing seeds through winter to their adolescence
Years, training to strengthen and sculpt my muscles
The last decade, ignoring the piano

Kelly Kurt

Privacy (Limerick)

It matters little, if or whether
Making love to her in the heather
It cannot be allowed
Even two is a crowd
You can't be alone when together

Kelly Kurt

Privilege (Senryu)

Unearned advantage
Not a due entitlement
Show noblesse oblige

Kelly Kurt

Programed

From where do thoughts arise?
The conscious mind does not will a thought
The idea of willing a thought is paradoxical
A cause is required for the effect
The mind is working all the time
Narrating the events of life
Making decisions in the background
The illusion of self-governance is comforting
But choices are deterministic
Fault and credit are fallacious
We are machines

Kelly Kurt

Progressive Resistance

Cold, hard steel
Inanimate iron
Gravitationally bound
No potential on flat ground

Flesh and bone
Soft, brittle
Left to modern lifestyle
Weakens and atrophies

Hoisted with control
Inertia battled
Steel tempers sinew
Sculpting and forging

Kelly Kurt

Proof (Limerick)

When arguing about what is fact
A middle ground is often what's lacked
One's right, the other wrong
Opinions can be strong
But reality remains intact

Kelly Kurt

Propagation Allocation

Most of this century in a plastic container
Roots, strangling themselves
Well cared for, but overgrown
Watered, fed, admired
Yes, admired
A young set of eyes fawned
Picked away that which expired
A new receptacle
Fresh soil
A new chance
Divided and replanted
Given with hope
Keep them alive
They will do the same for you

Kelly Kurt

Prophylactic Homophone Prescription (Limerick)

Upon opening the fireplace flue
Up the chimney the viruses flew
I have practiced this drill
To avert getting ill
Having been told to pre-vent the flu

Kelly Kurt

Prospect (Limerick)

Who will utter the last word on Earth?
Just how much is that privilege worth?
Given circumstances
Wonder what the chance is
That the ultimate word will be mirth

Kelly Kurt

Providence

If a spider had a choice
Would it be a butterfly
If a butterfly had a choice
Would it be an eagle
If an eagle had a choice
Would it be a human
If humans had a choice
Would they be born into poverty
War zones
Starvation
Intolerance
There are no such options
King or pauper
Syrian or Canadian
Black or white
No reason or purpose
All intrinsically equal
All fundamentally the same
Do not pluck the butterfly's wings
Or stomp on the spider
Let the eagles soar
And all humans flourish

Kelly Kurt

Providence (Senryu)

Why was I favored
Born white, American, male
Shouldn't matter, but...

Kelly Kurt

Psalm Of An Itch (Limerick)

Salve was chosen, by his volition
It worked, with applied repetition
Lucky that it was so
Best case scenario
After making a rash decision

Kelly Kurt

Pun (Haiku)

I sat in my chair
I looked left, then left again
Not knowing what's right

Kelly Kurt

Punctuated Compunctions (Limerick)

No matter what anyone believes
With their post bamboo ingestion peeves
If a hawk, not a dove
You'd better steer clear of
Any panda that eats, shoots, and leaves

Kelly Kurt

Punctuation (Limerick)

To avoid all sources of drama
A carefully inserted comma
Will distinguish intent
From what one thinks is meant
When being asked; 'Who sews, your momma? '

Kelly Kurt

Pusillanimous Pursuit (Limerick)

Tried to find scaredy-cats for ages?
If you're willing to pay their wages
Find the closest phone book
Then flip through it to look
For cowards in the yellow pages

Kelly Kurt

Quality V Quantity

In this world of mass produced goods
Glutting the market with trash
The value of distinctiveness
Is sacrificed for cash

Many poets too, produce
A copious anthology
Thinking that the object
Is to fabricate in quantity

How sad for readers everywhere
To swallow this frivolity
Of surrendering to number
The significance of quality

Kelly Kurt

Quantity's Lesser Sum (Tanka)

Just one poem today
I feel so inadequate
Others wrote dozens
A lack of inspiration?
Or a taming of ego

Kelly Kurt

Quarter Horse (Limerick)

My pony ate my old dollar set
So I got some advice from the Vet
If we're both to recoup
Then I must check its poop
But there hasn't been any change yet

Kelly Kurt

Queen For A Day

Don't ask me what it meant
Or how it was achieved
But I was 'popular'
It still can't be believed
It did not last that long
Twas over in a flash
Back to obscurity
I'm passing on my sash

Kelly Kurt

Questions

Who, What Where, When, Why and How
Are among my favorite terms
Without them we'd never grow
Or have our theories confirmed
Through the years there's been debate
If there are stupid questions
Ignorant or plain silly
Would be my first impression
But stupid, no, if sincere
And seeking truthful replies
To not ask when uncertain
I would not ever advise

Kelly Kurt

Quid Pro Quo

I have been given opportunities
Some deserved, others, simply granted
I would not call it pure luck
Previous actions led to bestowal
Unrecognized at the time
Such fortune can go unappreciated
Entitlement is too easy to accept
Rights, not privileges
Reminders are overlooked
Recompense discounted
An end is not out of the question
What then?
Today seems contented
Todays are far from permanent
I know this all too well
Take not for fixed
Learn the conventions
Advantages end

Kelly Kurt

Quiet (Haiku)

No such thing exists
In the calm of solitude
Your own breath thunders

Kelly Kurt

Rain (Haiku)

Rivers in the sky
Weeping tears of joy for Earth
Nourish poems and life

Kelly Kurt

Rain Clouds

Low layer of lethargic Leaden grey
Blocking all but ambient light
Heavy with humidity and Uniform
But a dry May's flora's delight
Releasing its encumbrance erratically
Disrupting pedestrian flow
Sharing evaporated riches
With all of life below

Kelly Kurt

Raking (Tanka)

Fall colors, fallen
Barren branches laugh at me
"Clean up our clutter"
Robotically, I submit
Furtively, I take pleasure

Kelly Kurt

Rationality

If seeking to find what is closest to truth
Listen to more than those who agree with you
Even the brightest will at least gain insight
When honestly striving to know what is right
We should care if what we believe is correct
Not just assume a cause for any effect
Whatever is inconsistent with the facts
You must disregard, or retest and redact

Kelly Kurt

Raw Talent

Five, diverse young men formed a band
One with dreadlocks down to his waist
Another, a clean-cut banjo player
A new age hippie
A lanky, tousled, guitar man
And a rock drummer
With little, musically, in common
Raw talent and amity united them
A fusion of reggae, rock, country and bluegrass
An ineffable quality and passion
And me, two and a half times their elder
Received as a friend and welcomed to listen
Raw talent not confined to harmony of music
But the raw talent of open-minded, accepting youth
Harmonizing with all as brothers

Kelly Kurt

Really? (Senryu)

If you think you know
You can't be more mistaken
I don't have a clue

Kelly Kurt

Recipe For A Smile

Giving or receiving
The process doesn't vary
One part pure sincerity
Mixed with making merry
Stir in a measure of love
(Add a wink to beguile)
Top off with a compliment
Recipe for a smile

Kelly Kurt

Refugee Repudiation

You are welcome
Welcome to move, family and all
To Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Lebanon
Live there, grow there, love there
There's room for plenty
For some reason, the residents have departed
You can stay as long as you'd like
For the rest of your lives
No?
Why not?
Hypocrite

Kelly Kurt

Regertable Constraints

So many wonderful poets
So many good friends
So little time
I would like to read all that is written
Every syllable and nuance
Each thought and emotion
Alas, I have to pick and choose
Did I miss an insight?
Have I cheated myself of an experience?
Have I deprived a bard of a student?
Forgive me, literature
Absolve me, comrade and colleague
So many choices
So little time

Kelly Kurt

Regress-Progress (Senryu)

First cause wasn't mind
Consciousness is emergent
Think for yourself

Kelly Kurt

Relationships (A 4 Haiku Series)

Many types of bonds
All with the obligation
Complete loyalty

Before entering
Consider repercussions
Should you abandon

One's greatest endeavors
Lie not in making money
But earning comrades

Always remember
Your most valued allegiance
Is with your own self

Kelly Kurt

Relationships (Senryu Series)

Father

First male role model
Not quite as cool as a dad
Sometimes just a verb

Mother

World's number one job
Progenitor of extremes
Watch your mouth Isaac

Daughter

Sugar and spice child
Can wrap dads around fingers
Grow up way to soon

Son

Carries on your name
Y chromosome heritors
Bitch's vile offspring?

Sister

Confidante sibling
Platonic relationship
Carpenter's merger

Brother

Initial best friend
Some from another mother
Response to bad pun

Lover

Sexual partner

Ringless terminology
Aficionado

Kelly Kurt

Relationships 1 (Of 4) (Haiku)

Many types of bonds
All with the obligation
Complete loyalty

Kelly Kurt

Relationships 2 (Haiku)

Before entering
Consider repercussions
Should you abandon

Kelly Kurt

Relationships 3 (Haiku)

One's greatest endeavors
Lie not in making money
But earning comrades

Kelly Kurt

Relationships 4 (Haiku)

Always remember
Your most valued allegiance
Is with your own self

Kelly Kurt

Relativity

Perception based on point of view
Assessment made when one of two
To observe from different angles
Challenges and all their tangles
Proportion given to both ends
Reply that starts with, "It depends."
Five hours with the one you love
Five seconds sitting on a stove
Which one seems like it lasts longer?
Which memory remains stronger?
So few accounts are trouble-free
If you are anything like me
It is, was, and will always be
Theory of relativity

Kelly Kurt

Release The Ant?

It was the largest ant I had ever seen
Nearly half an inch long and black as ink
I honestly thought I heard it scream
As it thrashed about violently
Trying to escape its entanglement
A large, rather sloppy web
Dangling between a shrub and the front door
Leaves and lawn debris festooning it
Punctuated in the middle with panic

Reaching down to release the Emmet
My hand stopped just short
"This is the circle of life, " I thought
If I free the ant, do I starve the spider?
But there may not even be a spider
I went inside, shutting the door hard behind me
I could not let the dilemma go though
An hour later, I went back out to look
The ant was gone. I chose to believe it escaped

Kelly Kurt

Religions (Senryu Series)

Christianity

Largest religion
Originally a cult
Many varied sects

Islam

Divided factions
Before and after Mecca
Whirling dervishes

Hinduism

Heard and remembered
Questioning authority
Kamasutra rocks

Buddhism

Sublime nirvana
Bodhi tree enlightenment
One of the oldest

Judaism

Festival of lights
Extreme dietary laws
Long persecuted

Animism

Nature has a soul
Humans and plants are equal
The hills are alive

Paganism

Non-Abrahamic

Greeks, Romans, Druids, Wicca
Polytheistic

Satanism

Pact with the devil
As silly as all the rest
Black fashion statement

Kelly Kurt

Remains Of The Day (Limerick)

You might think I'd feel somewhat bereft
Appearing like a victim of theft
It's not like I'm roughing
I started with nothing
And to date still have most of it left

Kelly Kurt

Remember Me?

Remember me? I thought not
Many people don't
I'm the one you laughed at
The one you ignored and avoided
I kept to myself
And spent my time in thought
With eyes and ears open

I know things you don't
Yes, I'm different
And that keeps people away
Go ahead, try to hurt me
Tear at me, leave me in silence
Push me down and walk on me
I will arrive before you
And I will have forgotten you then

Kelly Kurt

Remembering Yesterday (Edited)

Days gone by.
The past has passed.
You can try
to make it last,
but tomorrow is in a hurry.

Yesterday
calls for today.
There's no way
the two can play.
Sentenced to the past by time's jury.

Memory, like an ethereal thread,
tho wound up neatly inside your head,
binds the past to the present's heart,
whether days or weeks or years apart.

A stitch in time connects the ages
Ordering life's, stories pages.
Chapter one's followed by chapter two
yet both remain when the book is through.

Time is odd,
a fickle thing.
Gift from God,
A golden ring. Each day remembered by the next.

Every day that comes and goes
Authors say
and wise man knows
with care is entered in your text.

Kelly Kurt

Remembrance's Expiry

My mother, Joan, was an only child
She and her mother, Amy, have been dead for forty years
I do not know my great-grandmother's name
At some point, prior to four decades ago
The definitive demise
Her name was last spoken
No recollection remaining
Terminally abstract

I have five siblings
Six children
I may endure an additional generation
But the time will before long come
When my name
Your name
All names
Will be last spoken

Kelly Kurt

Resistance (Haiku)

Too weak to resist?
Struggle is not an option
Push against the pull

Kelly Kurt

Restaurant (Senryu Series)

A La Carte

Separate items
According to the menu
I just want the steak!

Appetizer

Forestalls the first course
No utensils are required
Middle-class hors d'oeuvres

Chef

Professional cook
Director of the kitchen
Why the silly hat?

Dessert

Concludes the main meal
Also called 'pudding' or 'sweets'
I'd like more steak please

Entrée

A starter for most
North American main course
Just get me my steak!

Waiter

Service sector job
Underappreciated
Don't forget to tip

Order

Too many options

Thank you for being patient
I think I'll have....Steak

Reservation

Advance arrangement
Do I need one at Denny's?
Save a steak for me

Kelly Kurt

Retraced Steps

In the wee hours of a mid-spring night, I had been restless
It was unusually warm outside and cloudless
So I took a thought filled ramble
The still leafless trees cast spider shadows
Backlit by a gibbous moon in a star stained vault
I chose a brilliant star and locked my gaze
My eyes scarcely looked down
Each step changed my view
The star, though fixed, turned corners with me
Playing peek-a-boo with oaks as I neared them
I felt a peaceful universe swathe me in silence
Arriving back home, I fell fast asleep
And dreamed the dreams of a child
The next morning was April at her best
Temperate, alive and fragrant
I started the day with another walk
And retraced my steps as closely as I could
Down the gravel alley, behind the old church
And winding across the sidewalks in my small town
The naked trees were jarring in the harsh light
Our local star, too severe to ogle, blanched the sky
The universe released me from her hushed embrace
Into the diurnal disorder that is daylight
No two walks could have been closer in course
No two walks could have been more remote in experience

Kelly Kurt

Return To Sender (Limerick)

UPS is largely a success
But traffic jams can make things a mess
Board member suggestion
Not out of the question
Reestablish the pony express

Kelly Kurt

Revenge (Limerick)

Jean Paul ate nothing but rich desserts
Every day even knowing it hurts
Cheesecake, tortes and cream pies
Til they bulged out his eyes
And exited much lower in squirts

Kelly Kurt

Rex Sex Hex (Limerick)

Were the options of Oedipus nil?
His dad he was predestined to kill
One cause or another
And he married his mother
So much for the concept of free will

Kelly Kurt

Rhyme

There is something basically pleasing about rhyme
Cadence, alliteration and emotion are fundamental
Meaning and perspicacity too, are coveted qualities
Striking familiar themes with your readers gratifies
But an echoing assonance always satisfies
No matter the language, no matter the time
There's something basically pleasing about rhyme

Kelly Kurt

Right To Die (With Dignity)

A broken heart's not worth suicide
But I can think of some things that are
Consciousness is extraordinary
So circumstances must meet the bar
The loss of one's memory, health, mind
The cruel, hard facts of human aging
When all that you are has disappeared
The struggle is not worth engaging
The selfish ones who'll be left behind
To endure the unbearable loss
Would have you hold on to dowse their pain
Without having to carry your cross

Kelly Kurt

Right- Wrong (Limerick)

We are all past beginning to tire
Of the entire republican choir
It is easy to tell
'Cause they don't do it well
If they open their mouths, they're a liar

Kelly Kurt

Rites Of Spring

Scratches, scrapes, blisters
Sore muscles, fatigue
A little color in the face
Muddy shoes, cracked rake handle
Piles of organic debris
Satisfaction
Anticipation

Kelly Kurt

Rivers (Senryu Series)

Nile

Egyptian lifeline
White and Blue merge at Khartoum
Dissent when in it

Mississippi

Bounded by ten states
Divides the east from the west
That's a lot of I's

Amazon

Home to piranhas
From Andes to Atlantic
Woman warrior

Ganges

Sacred to Hindus
Fifth most polluted on Earth
Himalayan source

Yangtze

Wholly in China
Crossed by beautiful bridges
Longest in Asia

Danube

Europe's thoroughfare
Thirty main tributaries
Strauss inspiration

Thames

London waterway

H added in Renaissance
Liquid history

Seine

Gay Paree milieu
Empties in English Cannel
Net used in Le Havre

Kelly Kurt

Rocks And Minerals (Senryu Series)

Amber

Fossil tree resin
Rubbing gives negative charge
My blonde haired daughter

Opal

Iridescent gem
Hydrated silica form
October birthstone

Coal

Combustible stone
Environmental menace
Santa's punishment

Ruby

Nine on the Mohs scale
One of the four precious stones
Oz slipper color

Zircon

Diamond substitute
Oldest minerals on Earth
Radioactive

Granite

Continental crust
Durable countertop rock
Used for curling stones

Marble

Metamorphic stone

Mark of an excellent steak
Sculptor's medium

Limestone

Sedimentary
Ancient marine skeletons
Not a citrus fruit

Kelly Kurt

Romance

Of all the posited structures of love□
The most abstruse is romance
A mixture of tradition and hormones
Employed to get into pants

Kelly Kurt

Rooms (Senryu Series)

Foyer

Welcome to my home
Extravagant waste of space
Not a place to sit

Living Room

T.V. habitat
Interim Sanctuary
Couch potato home

Dining Room

Thanksgiving harbor
Kitchen's new understudy
So last century

Kitchen

Social nerve center
Busiest room in the house
Housekeeper's nightmare

Bedroom

Where babies are made
One third of your life sentence
Alarm clock's domain

Bathroom

Large family challenge
Secondary library
Seldom close enough

Kelly Kurt

Root Of Evil

Our officials get graft money out of politics
This is why we must get money OUT of politics
Technically an oligarchy
Leaning towards a theocracy
The constitution is from another time
It may need some updating
But secular, social democracy must stand
Of, by and for the people
All people

Kelly Kurt

Royalty

What makes their blood any different than yours?
How did they come about their titles?
Usurpers of power, narcissistic aggressors
Politicians of yore
Kings, Rajas, Emperors and Emirs
Princes, Dukes, Sultans and Queens
Inheritors of stolen prosperity, descendants of elitists
Kept in power by the same pathetic mindsets
Adored for being born
Unelected, unqualified
They are only humans
Like you
Like me
Deserving of respect
But not Adoration or authority
There should be no room in the twenty-first century for royalty

Kelly Kurt

Royalty (Senryu Series)

King

Inherited role
Obsolete executive
Beaten by an ace

Queen

Ruler by birthright
Egg laying social insect
Most potent chess piece

Princess

Daughter of monarch
Popular cut of diamond
Daddy's little girl

Castle

Solid stone stronghold
Improbable in the sky
Move king and rook

Subjects

Inferior folk
Can't be a king without `em
Normally a noun

Count

Dracula's title
European nobleman
I use my fingers

Crown

Symbol of power

Jewel encrusted, gold headdress
Baby's appearance

Kelly Kurt

Run

I don't know why I thought about it
The question I started asking people
Most of the replies were anticipated
Some came as a bit of a shock

When was the last time you ran?
Not a brief jog or a quick shuffle
Not a tepid trot to catch an elevator
A full out sprint, for at least sixty feet

At fifty-seven, my answer was;
"I don't remember, but most likely at least thirty years ago."
No one over forty could remember either
Everyone in their thirties said, "Not since I was a teen."
Surprisingly, few in their twenties could even remember
Even a good percentage of teens said it had been years

Growing up, I ran every day
Chasing or being chased
Playing sports, or just kick-the-can
It was second nature
"Last one there is a rotten egg! "
In sneakers, dress shoes or barefoot
In the rain or snow
Across a field, up a hill, down the street

Do you remember the last time you ran?
When is the cut-off age?
Why?
Do we start to grow old when we stop running?
Is that when the clock starts?

Kelly Kurt

Running Out Of Tomorrows

Thousands of yesterdays rest firmly behind
Buried in recesses of shadows and mind
Their issue resulting in what is today
With what now appears scarcely any delay
But surely we're running out of tomorrows
A product that can't be purchased or borrowed
They call it the present because it's a gift
But much like a milkweed seed, once set adrift
Life flows with the wind and swiftly disappears
Drawing along with it the sum of your years
Running out of tomorrows starts at day one
And comes to an end once tomorrows are done

Kelly Kurt

S.A.D. (Limerick)

If the sun doesn't show real soon
I'm afraid I'll become quite the loon
It's been gloomy and cold
And if the truth be told
I'd settle for the light of the moon

Kelly Kurt

Sacrifice For Love (Sonnet)

My pain, delight, if peace to you it brings
O bluebird heart beat and find branch to roost
Take shelter, rest and heal your damaged wings
Whilst all around you great tempests are loosed
My eyes begrudge memory eternal
For when time and distance remove your face
And stripped of chance for pleasures visual
Memory so sweet holds ever your place
All that brings happiness now lies behind
Ahead, the emptiness of fate's making
Emptiness which would be doubly unkind
If time's ravages, memory taking
Ten times ten tortures I'd gladly endure
A happy life for my love to ensure

Kelly Kurt

Salt

Naturally occurring crystalline mineral
Used for centuries as currency
The master of your food, said Muhammad
Oceans full, virtually inaccessible
Edible, spreadable
Artery clogging, road clearing
Insult to use before taste
Salt
You're welcome, Morton
I have personally raised your stocks

Kelly Kurt

Sarah Palin (Limerick)

When her maker was handing out brains
He must have been cleaning out his drains
When he filled in her head
Hairballs went in instead
(A theory that partially explains)

Kelly Kurt

Sarah's Moon

Look dad, the moon, she used to say
It's yours, Sarah and I'll give it to you some day

Miles apart, on cloudless nights we knew
That if one saw the moon, the other did too

Tonight I saw her moon, looking down at me
She's one hundred miles away, but this I guarantee

Before time ends, that nothing will deter
A doting father, from giving it to her

Kelly Kurt

Satellite (Senryu)

Silent sentinel
Circling saturated stone
Sending swift signals

Kelly Kurt

Satisfaction (Haiku)

Gratification

For an act of pure kindness

Or a job well done

Kelly Kurt

Saturday Lawn Mowers

I easily forget which day it is
One day is so much like the others
I have no schedules or appointments
No need to have a calendar
I don't celebrate most holidays
And even forget my own birthday
But at least in the summer
When it's not raining
And I hear what sounds like
Half a dozen, massive, mutant bees
I know it's a Saturday

Kelly Kurt

Scalia (Senryu)

Insane believer
Died peacefully in his sleep
America wins

Kelly Kurt

Scars

Like many, I wear mine with a sort of pride
More poignant than photographs
Each with a well versed history
A moment in time, captured in flesh
Incised, burned, gouged and punctured
Testament to tenuous integument
Souvenir, reproving recklessness
Age worn, they evaporate
But memory seems to store in them
And transmute into a positive
Ask me about one

Kelly Kurt

School Subjects (Senryu Series)

Math

Keep track of your toes
Language of the universe
Deficient for most

Science

Testable ideas
Reality inquiry
Falsifiable

History

Written by winners
Analysis of the past
Drop in the bucket

Art

Creative beauty
Sets imagination free
Uniquely human

Physical Education

Sound mind, sound body
Check out the opposite sex
Release daily stress

English

Wide-reaching language
Few Americans use well
Transformed over time

Kelly Kurt

Science Fields (Senryu Series)

Archeology

□

Old is new again

Meticulous unearthing

Rediscover us

Biology

Scrutinizing life

The core of our existence

The birds and the bees

Geology

Study of the Earth

Continents and minerals

No stone left unturned

Meteorology

Climate and weather

Not to do with meteors

Forecaster's degree

Physics

Knowledge of nature

Ultimate reality

Clarified with math

Botany

Biology branch

Bay in Sydney, Australia

If green is your scene

Linguistics

Did I hear you right

Analysis of language
Communication

Kelly Kurt

Screen Door

Walls keep in, in and out, out
Panes of glass, barriers too, allow passage but to light
But a screen door is more selective
Barring insects
Allowing light
Breathing in and out
At the same time saying
Here I am
But knock before you enter
I am a screen door

Kelly Kurt

Seasons (Haiku)

Aware of nothing
Three months play their assigned roles
Directed by Sol

Kelly Kurt

Seasons And Time (Sonnet)

Early October day, your heat is gone
Fall equinox, aphelion past
Not your fault but gift before end of dawn
With knowledge of time, we know it can't last
Colors thrill the senses each fall as they do
Tho recognizing the transience of time
Spring and summer's days are always too few
Still we try to imbibe slowly our wine
When winter's blanket does cover so soft
And green no longer dominates our sight
The comfort of sunshine we felt so oft
Is replaced by the frigid north wind's bite
But hope anew springs with each passing day
Since the start of time, it's always that way

Kelly Kurt

Second Chance (Senryu)

We are imperfect
Should one mistake be fatal?
No recovery?

Kelly Kurt

Secondary At Best (Limerick)

A device like no other I've known
It can play music and guide a drone
Watch movies on demand
Look up `pineal gland'□
Incidentally, it's also a phone

Kelly Kurt

Seed (Haiku)

Wonder of nature
Her information is stored
In so little space

Kelly Kurt

Selective Senses (Senryu)

Why is it so hard?
Truth knocks so hard at our door
We hear only bells

Kelly Kurt

Self (Haiku)

Unique entity
Sentient identity
Worthy of respect

Kelly Kurt

Self Imposed

I am tired of being human
Rules, expectations, limitations
Gender, age, nationality
Fathoming standards is restrictive
Few other life forms exclude thusly
No other species obviates potentials
Thought is biased
Discrimination is man made
So many 'evils', just are not
I will die in this paradigm
I hope others will live beyond it

Kelly Kurt

Self Sufficiency

Who is truly independent?
Billionaires need "us";
Who will buy their products?
Who will clean their mansions?
Who will kiss their asses?
Left to themselves to survive
They couldn't
I couldn't
No one could
No one will

Kelly Kurt

Self-Deception

Some matters are so meticulously researched
Experimentally and rationally investigated
As to fully explain, to the extent of our capacity
Logical and rational thought tries to prove itself wrong
Corroboration of results confirms findings
Yet proselytized indoctrinations subconsciously annul
Preconceptions override lying eyes
Belief refuses proof
Evidence is annoying
Denial is comforting
I agree that some things leave a miniscule prospect
An unknown or unknowable possibility
All but certainty
But even in our infant reality
Most issues can be cogently verified, resolved
Sincere introspection is the start

Kelly Kurt

Self-Imposed Limitations (Limerick)

A phrase that most people tend to spout
Is one that I have reason to doubt
When good options exist
Why is it they insist
That there's only one way to find out

Kelly Kurt

Semantics (Limerick)

At Hugh Heffner's parties one can snare
A new partner (with whom to get bare)
You cannot ask for more
But that's only true for
Every single person in there

Kelly Kurt

Sense Of Self (Limerick)

I can neither confirm nor deny
The conceptual posit of "I";
Is it an illusion?
That leads to confusion
A matter of what, and not why

Kelly Kurt

Senses (Senryu Series)

Sight

Jewel of the crown
Initial love predictor
Useless without light

Hearing

Sometimes selective
Communicator's target
To use is to learn

Smell

Primal perception
Memory instigator
A rat's giveaway

Taste

Thanksgiving blessing
There's no accounting for it
Buds are my buddies

Touch

Most sensual sense
When the heart is contacted
A base requirement

Kelly Kurt

Sensibilities

Five days to go before my book comes out
My publisher sends me a formatted draft
More than two dozen, red highlighted areas
The accompanying note tells me why
These are too "edgy" for print
Edit or delete
It's a humor book, for goodness sake
How less funny would a poop museum be
Without a lot of cool S**T in it?
What is so offensive about suggesting
That dachshunds not be given breast augmentations?
I acquiesced
S**T became stuff
Dachshunds were deleted
The book will be released on time
In a world where it is common place
To see little but war, violence and misery on the news
To turn our backs on the less fortunate
To throw away tons of food every day
When billions are starving
Why is the phrase "damn the torpedoes" offensive?

Kelly Kurt

September Rain (Tanka)

Clouds appear the same
May's storms arose from their kin
Fueling summer growth
Crying coldly for autumn
Ninth month's rain is ablution

Kelly Kurt

Sequence

Over the years of writing
My style and technique have changed
I've found that writing a poem
To fit a title
Constrains
The message, intent, emotion
Must be free to flow and express
When the poem is finished writing itself
The hard part comes
The title must draw the reader in
Strike a nerve, pique curiosity
Echo substance, but not give away all
The title is crucial
But comes last

Kelly Kurt

Serial Killer (Senryu)

Innocuous sleep
Slaying the hours of life
One third massacred

Kelly Kurt

Serious Poet?

Does this face belong to a serious poet?
My resounding rejoinder is yes
He writes 'cause he must, but is he preposterous?
The answer is anybody's guess
The proof's in the pudding (By pudding I mean my words.)
(Parenthetics aren't meant to insult.)
But once he feels silly, and that's most of the time
Something like this is bound to result

Kelly Kurt

Sermon On Surmount (Limerick)

Born prior, I might have been Jesus
That guy who's said wants to appease us
I know he's just fiction
And I'll get some friction
But it's humor, not faith that frees us

Kelly Kurt

Seven Deadly Sins (Senryu Series)

Pride

Fall's predecessor
Applied to work, enhances
The lion's children

Greed

Want beyond all need
Roots penetrate good judgement
Equality thief

Lust

Disguises as love
Incubated in the loins
Common sense slayer

Envy

Cares not how or why
Eats away from the inside
Yours is not enough

Gluttony

Waistline expander
Full, only the starting point
Heartburn never far

Wrath

Do not scorn a woman
An all-consuming hatred
Revenge precursor

Sloth

Three toed exemplar

Overwhelming laziness
Inertia's far left

Kelly Kurt

Seven Wonders Of The Ancient World (Senryu Series)

Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Locale uncertain

Built by Nebuchadnezzar

Judge Roy Bean's Backyard?

Great Pyramid at Giza

Khufu's Cheops tomb

Only wonder remaining

Pharaoh's business scheme?

Statue of Zeus at Olympia

Massive seated god

Made by sculptor Phidias

Models in gift shop?

Temple of Artemis at Ephesus

Turkish location

Destroyed three times, rebuilt twice

Mere ruins remain

Mausoleum at Halicarnassus

Destroyed by earthquakes

Mausolus' eponym

Say it three times fast

Colossus of Rhodes

Sun god, Helios

Made from the remnants of war

Five foot long 'member'

Lighthouse at Alexandria

Built by Ptolemy

Four-hundred-fifty feet tall
Too cheap for foghorn?

Kelly Kurt

Sexy (Senryu Series)

Eyes

Windows to the soul
I get lost in their beauty
Do flies get flustered?

Smile

Universal charm
Affection amphetamine
Dopamine donor

Hair

Shiny and flowing
Silken when caressing cheeks
Rapunzel's allure

Breasts

Womanhood's symbol
Fascination of most men
Though they have them too

Hips

Give hourglass shape
Instinctually preferred
Child bearing function

Legs

Toned and sensual
Do they go all the way up?
Love the way you walk

Butt

Curvaceous and firm

Hand-hold for carnal embrace
Spot for loving pat

Brain

Where true love resides
The origin of beauty
Erogenous zone

Kelly Kurt

Shades Of Green

On the north side of the old church
Under century old pine trees□
My shade garden grows
Ivies embrace the limestone walls
Hostas, ferns, woodland flowers and ground-covers
All flourishing atop a generous bed of ochre needles
A late afternoon rain pays court to the tableau
Filtering through the boughs, becoming a mist
Glazing the foliage, highlighting variegated vegetation
I could never have imagined prior to that moment
In rain forest, arboretum or emerald isle
Ever there being more shades of green

Kelly Kurt

Shadows Of Leafless Oaks

Mutant spiders
Hundreds of legs doing battle
Growing, stretching, shifting positions
Across the lawn
Up the walls and back down
Two dimensional, from three
No thickness, but obscuring
Extracting color, and relinquishing
Broad, dense, dark bases
Tapering, feathering, diffusing
Disappearing under the intransience of pines
Sunlight, their meals
Moonlight, dessert
Clouds, their hunger
Summer's verdure metamorphoses them into cooling billows
Camouflaging the combat

Kelly Kurt

Shallow (Senryu)

Despite my own nous
I cannot seem to control
Bias for beauty

Kelly Kurt

Shallow Pools (Haiku)

Shallow pools still drown
A fate met by many fools once
Once is all it takes

Kelly Kurt

Shameless Promotion (Tanka)

This space should be used for lovely verse
To promote here approaches perverse
But if I can combine
Advertising and rhyme
You may deem there are other things worse

Kelly Kurt

Shared Silence

Occupied patio
Half a dozen individuals
Old and young
Communicating
Diverse experience and perspectives
Beer and marijuana liven the jousting
Reflective, Disparate, humorous
The temperate mid-October night elongates
Hours pass as the exchange transmutes
Subject hopping with untraceable ease
The inevitable, abrupt pause arrives
Eyes scan the setting
What appears to be a severance
Is the most intimate interaction
We shared silence

Kelly Kurt

Shear Genius (Limerick)

A lascivious, New Zealand rube
Deemed by ranchers just a lonely boob
Cultivated a coup
When he decided to
Launch a website for sheep called Ewe Tube

Kelly Kurt

Sheepish (Limerick)

Pressed into action, the hero flew
Knowing exactly what he must do
No sense going pell mell
To save a femme fatale
Since it's not me, it's only a ewe

Kelly Kurt

Sheesh! (Senryu)

Do most people think
The truth is quite disturbing
The answer is no

Kelly Kurt

Shh! (Limerick)

There are four blondes (two Janes and two Jills)
Who are suffering from aches and chills
They have meds from their docs
In their medicine box
But don't want to wake the sleeping pills

Kelly Kurt

Shiny Shins

Three inches below my knees
The tree line abruptly stops
A relic from many years
Of sporting skin-tight, white socks
In summer, when warmth prescribes
That long pants be rejected
I caution all passers-by
Of sunlight that's reflected

Kelly Kurt

Shoes (Senryu Series)

Boots

Extra protection
Fashion statement in westerns
Cute name for kittens

Bowling Shoes

Colorful sliders
Regularly rented out
Someone else's stench

Flip Flops

Sandal relative
Politician's position
Thong for phalanges

High Heels

Show off women's legs
Painful price paid for style's sake
Drug addled scoundrels?

Loafers

Flat bottomed slip-ons
Comfortable casuals
Teenage epithet

Ballet Slippers

Flexible, thin soles
Pink for women, white for men
I wear mine shopping

Sneakers

Rubber soled gym shoes

Named for their noiseless aspect
Stink to high heaven

Kelly Kurt

Shortcut (Limerick)

You found a new recipe for cake
It only takes one minute to bake
Impossible to chew
Twas too good to be true
Disappointment was left in its wake

Kelly Kurt

Shut

On the west side of my basement room
An old, twelve panel widow
Three feet up, at ground level
Transparently separates inside from outside
Wavy, bubble laden, 19th century glass
Deforms my transitory observations
Opened with considerable effort
Five months ago, as spring matured
Letting fresh, warm air circulate
The ambient sounds of nature
Welcomed inside through mesh

It has been cold for four days now
October nights, flirting with frost
As twilight deepened to pitch yesterday
And a brisk, northwest wind blustered
I could no longer postpone providence
The window fought valiantly
But in the end, my will won out
Separated again from all but the view
I stare, imagining the accompanying senses
Familiar with the process, I can but wait
Seven months until resuscitated again

Kelly Kurt

Sight (Tanka)

Reflected photons
Colliding with the retina
Scenes come into view
Interpreted by the brain
Experienced by the heart

Kelly Kurt

Sign Here

I'd like to sell you something
It'll cost everything you got
I will not let you look at it
But the owner says it's hot
You cannot see it for yourself
No human being is able
But if you do not buy it now
The offer's off the table
You just have to take my word
Tho the contract is a wraith
Come on, you can trust me, right?
All it takes is a little faith

Kelly Kurt

Silence (Haiku)

A poem in itself
Nourishment for the dreamer
Absorbed through the soul

Kelly Kurt

Silly (Limerick)

There was an old poet (No, really!)
Who made up his rhymes willy-nilly
With the soul of a child
He wrote as he smiled
Why live if you cannot be silly

Kelly Kurt

Silly Goose (Limerick)

The engine exploded with fury
Parachute was donned in a hurry
Coward pilot contrived
As the jet plane nose-dived
"I'm just going for help, don't worry'

Kelly Kurt

Six Blocks (Senryu)

The walk there is short
Good times, over in a flash
Endless hike back home

Kelly Kurt

Size Doesn't Matter

Abundant?

All of Earth's matter

If devoid of distance between subatomic particles

Would fit in Wrigley field

Unimaginably compact

But the extent of substance

Kelly Kurt

Skeptic

Believe nothing
Proof is never enough
Accept nothing
Certainty is imaginary
When one cannot explain self
How are any answers valid?
Even doubt is suspect

Kelly Kurt

Skepticism (Limerick)

When trying to figure things out
The method that I always tout
Evidence as the start
If you want to be smart
The default position is doubt

Kelly Kurt

Skin (Tanka)

Thin, supple membrane
Covering muscle and bone
Delicate yet strong
With many different shades
Man's cover should not be judged

Kelly Kurt

Sleep (Tanka)

No explanations
A third of life unconscious
Still somehow better
Than the realization
Two years are spent in bathrooms

Kelly Kurt

Sleeper Bowl (Senryu)

Big game is over
The much hyped spectacle bored
Four hours, lost to time

Kelly Kurt

Sleeplessness

I went to bed five times today
None of them took
Scraped out skull, dull, hollow ache
To sleep, perchance to dream
Bullshit!
Waking hallucinations frighten
Who is that, who am I?
I know this is an artifact
Knowing doesn't help
Dizzy, uncertain
Not my normal state
I shake my head
Slap my face
Maybe a drink would help
Fragile being
Encumbered by mortality
Intelligent design?
Who would plan this?
Night fell hours ago
Another day threatens
Alone in my skull
What am I waiting for?

Kelly Kurt

Sleepy (Haiku)

Eyelids now leaden
The clock mocks my nodding head
Enter Morpheus

Kelly Kurt

Sleepy (Tanka)

Dull ache behind eyes
Concentration difficult
No motivation
Verticality challenged
Circadian rhythm wins

Kelly Kurt

Slow Poked (Limerick)

In sedentary lifestyle's embrace
Idlers cannot keep up with the pace
Tho I'm sure they wouldn't
They certainly shouldn't
Challenge Usain Bolt to a foot race

Kelly Kurt

Smiff

Youth, a combination of ego and ignorance
No insight, no desire beyond self
A world that exalts superficiality
Consideration, beyond consideration
No
Generation gap narrows
A learning moment if recognized
A teaching moment if not denied
Youth can express
Youth can remind
Smiff
A youth
A friend
A sounding board
One man, bringing me back
How close was I?
I don't want to know

Kelly Kurt

Smile

Inexpensive donation

In fact, virtually free

A thing I do not ration

Always have a spare with me

Give away with no restraint

To those who have a lack

There is no need for complaint

As it always will grow back

Kelly Kurt

Smiles, Tears

Such that brings smiles
A crisp morning in May
The singing of birds
A child, asleep and so innocent
The touch of one who cares

Such that brings tears
Lost dreams
Broken hearts
Loneliness

Such that makes up life
Smiles
Tears
One without the other leaves you guessing
To smile after a tear
So sweet

Kelly Kurt

Snapdragon Seeds

Dried pod from summer's brilliance
Among dozens in a paper bag
Stored hopefully, through winter's quiescence

Opened gently, with human hands
Spilling out on a clean, white platter
Scores of flea eye sized seeds
Sprinkle and scatter
Like freshly ground pepper

Dusted atop soil filled pots
Delicately dampened and set on a sill
Snapdragon seeds become snapdragons again

Kelly Kurt

Sneeze

One hundred mile per hour breeze
Exits my nose when I sneeze
Creates a germy, misty cloud
And is horribly too loud
I would stifle it if I could
But letting loose feels so good

Kelly Kurt

Snow (Tanka)

Crystalline water
Intricate, hexagonal
Tumbling gracefully
Alighting on outstretched tongue
Ironically warming hearts

Kelly Kurt

Snow Man

Four spheres, one at a time
Each starting out as a clump in my hands
Rolled and aggregated
Leaving green trails behind
The first; terminating where it would stand
Secured in place by packing
Successive balls in descending proportion
Stacked in ascending stature
Bonded with brethren
Bedecked with branches
Humanized with stone eyes and mouth
Left in the sun to melt

Kelly Kurt

Snow Stroll (Haiku)

Crunch beneath the feet
Shatters the frigid, still air
Confirming winter

Kelly Kurt

So Far Away

Yesterday is so far away
Tomorrow is just as far
Today is as close as it gets
To being someplace we are
Tho it's been said often before
With the same intent in mind
Distance is merely ghostly
A gap to which we are blind

Kelly Kurt

Social Insects (Limerick)

Did you hear about Pat and Arty?
The bumblebees named Moriarty
They just bought a new hive
Down on Route Fifty-five
Let's throw them a house swarming party

Kelly Kurt

Socialism (Senryu)

Education, army

Infrastructure, Medicare

All social programs

Kelly Kurt

Societal Glasses

Our surroundings are familiar, comfortable
We feel an assurance of normalcy
This is how life is
It's natural to crave possessions
It's conventional to disregard the aged
It's typical to watch football on Sunday
To waste without thought
To feel entitled
Be blindly patriotic
Somehow we forget that we're less than the whole
We wear societally prescribed glasses
Seeing things with self-centered eyes
Deliberately or unintentionally
Ignoring the rest of the world
Assuming that all others are
Or should be just like us
Believing that entire cultures and countries
Are the narrowly portrayed stereotypes we're fed
Open minds require unencumbered eyes

Kelly Kurt

Soiled Again (Limerick)

At three in the morning emergent
An impulse arises that's urgent
I know what's the matter
Weak sphincter and bladder
Remind me to buy more detergent

Kelly Kurt

Sol (Haiku)

No respite at all
East, then west; never-ending
Always his daytime

Kelly Kurt

Solar Eclipse (Haiku)

Improbable fluke
Diameter and distance
Pair to block all light

Kelly Kurt

Solar Revolution Evolution (Limerick)

Fossil fuel's near the end of its run
But replacement rights haven't begun
To put it in my name
I am staking a claim
For legal ownership of the sun

Kelly Kurt

Solar System (Senryu Series)

Sun

Shepherd of the flock
Circling the Galaxy
A mere point of light

Mercury

Too close for comfort
Gods' fleet footed messenger
Planet of Wednesday

Venus

Dawn and dusk highlight
Greenhouse effect run amok
A warning to Earth

Earth

The third, number one
Water, nourishing all life
Tilt, bringing seasons

Moon

Waning and waxing
Flashing only its obverse
Generating tides

Mars

Roman god of war
Blood red celestial sphere
War of worlds loser

Asteroid Belt

Planetesimals

Between Mars and Jupiter
Circumstellar disk

Jupiter
Happy world, by Jove
The big fish in our small pond
Rival to Venus

Saturn

Last seen by just eyes
Rings enough to wed the worlds
Bringer of old age

Uranus

Butt of many jokes
Tilted to the ecliptic
Pale blue ice giant

Neptune

Now last on the list
Predicted discovery
Supersonic winds

Pluto

Demoted to dwarf
Largest Kuiper belt object
Mickey Mouse's pet

Kelly Kurt

Some Nets From The Poor Chew Geese

With no teeth, they masticate poorly
Though their nip can bruise the skin
I wanted to catch some food for them
But knew not where to begin
They gave me a seine made in Lisbon
I thought they must be clowning
Some nets, they said, are best inspired by
'Lizabeth Barret Browning

Kelly Kurt

Some Sum (Limerick)

Young, old, and every age in-between
When asked, I am compelled to come clean
How old are you now, Kel?
"As far as I can tell
I'm every age I've ever been"

Kelly Kurt

Son Of An Umbra (Limerick)

Each night it's glibly taken away
For the time dark can keep light at bay
Its absence doesn't last
Unless it's overcast
We all get a new shadow each day

Kelly Kurt

Soon? (Senryu)

A narrow escape
Validity will win out
There are no losers

Kelly Kurt

Sorry (Haiku)

All that need be said
Sincerely proffered humbly
To commence healing

Kelly Kurt

Sound (Haiku)

No tree in forest
Creates more than pressure waves
With no ears to hear

Kelly Kurt

Space

Take away all matter
Planets, stars
Even atoms
Leave nothing behind in the universe
What is left?
The cosmos has not disappeared
It is just as large
No mass to distort it
No way to distinguish time
But it is alive
More fundamental than anything it held
Fields, virtual particles
The properties that give rise to our realities
Black holes do nothing without its permission
Space can exist on its own
If it wants matter, it will forge it
But take away space
Mass, energy and time are not possible
Indeed, meaningless
Space is more than a stage
It is the producer and director
The angel, backing the play

Kelly Kurt

Space (Senryu Series)

Asteroid

Leftover debris
Between Mars and Jupiter
Not painful butt itch

Black Hole

Incredibly dense
Not even light can escape
Deep in Calcutta

Comet

Rocky ball of ice
Tail points away from the sun
Trademarked sink cleanser

Dark Matter

Undetected mass
Gravitational effects
Funeral planning

Galaxy

Uncountable stars
Thousands of light years across
Expensive smartphone

Nebula

Solar nurseries
Interstellar dust and gas
Messier objects

Star

Main sequence fusion

Provide energy for life
Won't give autographs

Universe

Seems we live in one
Created by the Big Bang
Beauty queen title

Kelly Kurt

Spading Trots (Limerick)

Spoonerisms are unexpected
Freudian slips perhaps reflected
Sunny flip of the tongue
The jury is head dung
And overruled when they objected

Kelly Kurt

Spam

Tit for tat in technology
New filters try to keep it out
But resourceful capitalists
Will find an alternative route
How many African princes
Can access your email account
Offering millions of dollars
For a fraction of that amount
Your penis can be much larger
A psychic knows just what you need
Asian beauties want to meet you
I hope that it can be agreed
That each time you log on to mail
And fifty strange tidings do greet
Nary one should be examined
Just check 'All' and then hit delete

Kelly Kurt

Spam (Repost After Being Deactivated Because Of? ? ?)

Tit for tat in technology
New filters try to keep it out
But resourceful capitalists
Will find an alternative route
How many African princes
Can access your email account
Offering millions of dollars
For a fraction of that amount
Your pe*is can be much larger
A psychic knows just what you need
Asian beauties want to meet you
I hope that it can be agreed
That each time you log on to mail
And fifty strange tidings do greet
Nary one should be examined
Just check 'All' and then hit delete

Kelly Kurt

Sparrows

Brown and wee as mice
Speckling the sky like pepper
Charming the dawn with song
A handful land outside my window
Hopping through the grass
Looking over their shoulders
Pecking for just the right twig
Stopping their search
For just a moment
To tease their friends
And me
Before rejoining the wind

Kelly Kurt

Spice Of Life (Tanka)

When joy has no bounds
And rapture fills every day
Can one be alive?
Contrast provides perspective
Variation grants meaning

Kelly Kurt

Spices And Herbs (Senryu Series)

Salt

Sodium Chloride

Used to pay Roman soldiers

Hypertension source

Pepper

Woody vine's berry

Still the world's most traded spice

Put on fastball pitch

Basil

Aromatic plant

Considered the king of herbs

Italian cook's must

Sage

Stuffing flavoring

Ornamental edible

Erudite Scholar

Saffron

Dried crocus stigmas

Produce flavor and color

Iran makes the most

Vanilla

Mexican orchids

Time and labor intensive

Just run of the mill

Cilantro

Coriander leaves

Found in Tutankhamen's tomb
Tastes like soap to some

Horseradish

Piquant root produce
Spices up bloody Marys
Equine excrement?

Kelly Kurt

Spider In My Sink

A cup of instant coffee was my focus
Cobwebs muddle my mornings
'Til caffeine clears the blur
Hand on faucet and ready to seek hot water
I spied a spider in my sink
As big as a beer cap, with bulbous abdomen
Eight thrashing limbs in panic
Struggling in vain to scale stainless steel
At first, I just studied the arachnid
Marveling at the structure and intensity
But quickly feeling shame for inaction
I reached in to free it
Instinct impelled it to escape
With nowhere to go, it finally settled on my hand
With a puff from my uneasy lips
I sent it to the floor
Without hesitation, it scuttled under the refrigerator
No longer needing a pick-me-up
I poured a glass of milk

Kelly Kurt

Sports (Senryu Series)

Football

Gladiator like
Three yards and a cloud of dust
Concussion sponsor

Baseball

Six outs per inning
A lot of standing around
A swing and a miss

Basketball

Bratty millionaires
Not for vertically challenged
Swoosh, nothing but net

Hockey

Street fighting on skates
Canadian diversion
Keeps dentists solvent

Soccer

Keep hands to yourself
Much ado about nothing
It's all in the feet

Tennis

Like watching paint dry
Only place love means nothing
Ping-pong on steroids

Gymnastics

Beauty and power

Equilibrium is key
Twenty-five is old

Hammer Throw

Strength, speed and balance
Sixteen pound ball of tungsten
Spin til you're dizzy

Swimming

Kick like a dolphin
The other option is sink
Shave to reduce drag

Golf

Men love to hate it
Below par is above par
Two socks, hole in one

Bodybuilding

Natural is best
Progressive resistance work
Strict diet standards

Running

Bipedal forte
Cardiovascular coup
Nasal nastiness

Kelly Kurt

Spring (Haiku)

A promise fulfilled
Beauty reincarnated
Both life and love bloom

Kelly Kurt

Spring (Senryu Series)

Thaw

Drifts disappearing
Preprogrammed defrost cycle
Hostilities' end

Flowers

Crocuses explore
First color in many months
Poet's renaissance

Grass

Dormant blades awake
Always seems greener elsewhere
Mowers resurrect

Umbrellas

Mobile canopies
Ineffectual in gusts
A smile can be one

Wind

Ushers in the warmth
Supporter of vibrant kites
Consequence of beans

Cleaning

Dust out the old year
Best cure for cabin fever
Cobweb carnage course

Love

Rabbits are at it

Young man's fancy lightly turned
Creates April fools

Kelly Kurt

Spring Squall

From the southwest
A cowl of night-time
Atmospheric eclipse
Enveloping afternoon
Newly minted oak leaves tremble

Kelly Kurt

Spring Winds (Haiku)

Spring winds bluster bold
Rearranging last year's leaves
And reddening cheeks

Kelly Kurt

Spring's First Mow

Three pulls and I'm off
The brilliant sun, directly overhead
I start by outlining myriad obstacles
Bushes, trees, beds
In, out, under and around
Slow progress, but part of the plan
Spiraling out of the last
I delineate the borders
Demarcate a grid
Squares, rectangles
Shearing blades with blades
Roar of the engine, drowning out ambience
Vibration of the handle, numbing fingertips
Beads of sweat, coalescing into rivulets
Following contours to my eyes
Chlorophyll, staining my shoes, pleasing my olfaction
Counterclockwise around the building and grounds
Southwest to southwest
Lively pace to ensure one tank suffices
Occasional pinecone, discharging like a bullet
Releasing the handle, the engine sputters to a stop
I'm finished
Standing back, I survey the results
Uniformity
Satisfaction
Ephemeral accomplishment
Rainclouds gather presently
I'll be back

Kelly Kurt

Spring's Old Leaves

Most of these leaves aren't mine!
Open corridor blows them in every year
Over a foot deep in places
Entangled in last year's skeletons
Where do I even start?
The first pull of the red, tined tool is awkward
The damp leaves are heavy
And clump into partially decomposed masses
Impaled on my implement
Several swipes expose still frozen and shiny earth
A pile begins to take shape
The occasional gust taking some of the drier leaves off the top
And donating them to the neighborhood
My heart rate is up
I'm panting like I just finished a marathon
(It has been only five minutes.)
Gloves afford some protection
But a blister is forming in the recess between thumb and forefinger
Children pass on their way home from school
Some giggle at the sweaty old man with his wind-blown hair
(That was me, fifty years ago.)
I smile and continue
Ten, twenty, forty minutes, an hour
I'm done!
Not with the job, just for the day
Shoulders burning, back sore, on the verge of a stroke
I turn to scan my achievement
Not what I expected or hoped for
Five, maybe seven percent done
The wind has undone some areas
But it's a start

Kelly Kurt

Stages Of Life (Senryu Series)

Embryo

Not yet a fetus
Unrealized potential
Mankind's current stage

Neonate

Helpless, not useless
Crying and pooping machine
Cherub when fast asleep

Toddler

Walks like a drunkard
Terrible twos could be worse
Everything is new

Child

Life's dictums form here
The better part of us all
Should know only joy

Teenager

Pushing the limits
Hormones alter everything
Knowers of all facts

Adult

Starts early for some
Never achieved by others
Freedoms lost and gained

Middle-age

Daunting no man's land

Mortality rears its head
Secure in own skin

Old Age

Cemented in ways
Cruellest corporeal joke
Leading cause of death

Kelly Kurt

Stars (Haiku)

Fusing hydrogen
Radiating warmth for life
Embellishing nights

Kelly Kurt

Station (Tanka)

Conscious, cerebral
Evolution's archetype
Consummate life form
Walk the Earth as tho a god
In the midst of billions more

Kelly Kurt

Stepping In It (Limerick)

What is an honest worker to do
Trying their hardest just to get through
Can't live high on the hog
If you're not the lead dog
You always have an unchanging view

Kelly Kurt

Stinky Feet (Limerick)

Is that stench ham or pepperoni?
What part of your body smells phony?
The pursuit should begin
No higher than the shin
The answer, I think, is baloney

Kelly Kurt

Stone In My Shoe

Calling at three in the morning
Dropping by when I'm busy
You spin my world around
'Til I'm nauseous and dizzy

"Can I borrow your car? "
Is frequently asked
But then it's returned
With just a gallon of gas

You bum half my cigarettes
And purloin my lighter
Ebenezer Scrooge's purse strings
Couldn't be any tighter

I've seldom suffered a nuisance
As annoying as you
You're like walking a mile
With a stone in my shoe

Kelly Kurt

Strangers (Haiku)

The unfamiliar
By virtue of happenstance
Waiting to be known

Kelly Kurt

Street Names (Senryu Series)

Main

Central thoroughfare
Business activity hub
Large pipe for water

Elm

Thinned out by disease
Popular path for nightmares
Deciduous tree

Second

More common than first
Sixtieth of a minute
Dueler's assistant

Park

Often holds namesake
Monopoly's second best
If you find a spot

Lake

Magnificent mile
Veronica's last name
Go jump in one now

Lincoln

Patriotic name
Capitol of Nebraska
Luxury auto

Sunset

West coast favorite

California Boulevard
Old age epithet

Kelly Kurt

Stressors (Senryu Series)

Divorce

Building for some time
Lifetime of commitment; through
Battles not over

Death of a Spouse

Sudden or foreseen
A part of you now missing
This is forever

Imprisonment

Deprived of freedom
Caged like a repugnant beast
All hope abandoned

Injury/Illness

Vulnerable state
Absence of independence
Unbearable pain

Marriage

Into the unknown
Autonomy discarded
Fragile heart exposed

Loss of Job

Ego confounded
Security compromised
Future, uncertain

Retirement

Withdrawal symptoms

Frightening lack of purpose
Can death be distant?

Kelly Kurt

Stump (Haiku)

Poignant reminder
All life is temporary
Returning to soil

Kelly Kurt

Stupid?

God, I'd like to hold her
It has been a long, long time
Cuckolded, divorced and alone
Seldom even thinking of warmth
A picture came across my view
A woman with large brown eyes
Quiet, sensitive and deserving
A commercial on TV
Why did she affect me so?
This paid actress on the air
I know it wouldn't be
Couldn't be
Shouldn't be
But for a sort time, I build castles in the air
Recalled youthful desire
Imagined a connection
Invented a past
Anticipated a future
Is that stupid?

Kelly Kurt

Stymied

Move on, there's nothing to see here
If it doesn't demand to emerge
It doesn't deserve to exist
It doesn't exist
Yet

Kelly Kurt

Subjective Sunset.

I could describe the range of colors
There are thousands of diverse ways
The sensations, physical and emotional
The local events, corresponding
The universal properties, causative
Some seventy-three million since the dawn of man
All witnessed individually, even in crowds
No two the same
I may try at some time to illustrate my impression
My sense of a particular event
In the interim, I leave you with yours

Kelly Kurt

Subjective Time

When I was four and a half
Five was a lifetime away
From twelve years old 'til thirteen
There was a decade's delay
To make it to my twenty's
From my last year as a teen
It seemed a year of Sundays
Had inserted in between
From twenty-nine to thirty
It at last took just a year
But thirty-nine to forty
Just nine months did disappear
The last year of my forties
Took precisely six fortnights
My fifty-sixth year on Earth
Seemed to slip by overnight
This exponential advance
Just leads to one conclusion
I'll be eighty yesterday
Time's subjective illusion

Kelly Kurt

Subjugation And Sovereignty Of Steven

I let Steven go today
I selfishly kept him far too long
Two weeks ago, at three in the morning
I was in my usual place
Doing my usual thing
Sitting at the computer, absorbed in writing
In the right field of my peripheral vision
Motion
Not uncommon
The basement is alive year-round
Invertebrates of sundry species abound
Centipedes, spiders, winged beasties and creepy-crawlies
They fluctuate with the seasons
Moths, fireflies, ants
Mosquitos that have a death wish (And I oblige)
But beetles are permanent boarders
Most nights, or I should say early mornings
One sort or another sets out to circumnavigate my room
The old, white tiles highlight their dark bodies
Around, sometimes over obstacles, they meander
I can see no purpose in their itinerary
Creeping behind the shelves in the corner
Popping out from under my bed
Across the distressed, once white Berber rug
Meeting the orange extension cord that powers my laptop
Plugged in to an outlet beyond my door
Running across the breadth of my chamber
Occasionally scaling it, but more often, following it like a river
Flowing under my chair
The motion that night, however, was different
Lumbering, graceless
Enormous
All but two inches long, five-eighths wide
Burnished bronzed-black exoskeleton
Quarter inch long, curved mandibles
Once he reached the rug, its texture complicated his movements
His long, hind pair of legs splayed
Almost as if useless
There is no way he could escape any predator

He'd be hard pressed to outpace an infirm snail
I watched as he gradually reached the corner
Disappearing under the door
He didn't return that night
I kept an eye out for him the next
He didn't show
The following evening was spent with friends
Live music, good conversation
At one point, the discussion turned to insects
Just the day before, Kelsey had needed to extricate one from her dog's nose
Having tugged mightily, it was decapitated
The bug in question was described just like mine
A stag beetle
I recounted my encounter, thinking it an interesting coincidence
The night grew late and we all went our separate ways
Arriving at home, I turned on the lights
The hallway that led to my room held a pleasant surprise
My unwieldy giant acquaintance
I grabbed a clear, plastic container
And cautiously placed him inside
He had no way of scaling the slick, three inch walls
So I didn't need to attach the lid
I took the mini menagerie into my room and set it next to my chair
As I spent the night writing, I would look over
He was an ominous looking creature, but fascinating
Intermittently, he would make loud sounds
Trying to chew his way out of his transparent prison
I googled 'stag beetles', to find out what they eat
Omnivorous, but preferring vegetable matter
Before I retired, I went out into the dark
I collected a variety of vegetation, including a narcissus flower
(He favored that)
When morning came, I checked on him first thing
He was standing in the corner, flat against the base
A gentle tap on the side immediately riled him
He reared up like a grizzly, preparing to attack
I found that instinct amusing and would recreate it frequently
Days passed, and Steven (Yes, I named him) was getting along well
I would show him to the few people that stopped by
I had done something similar a few years back with a black widow spider
I had caught her in mid-winter and kept her into spring
I remember telling myself that when the weather improved enough

I would release her outside
The weather improved enough by early May that year
I self-interestedly kept her inside... at least one day too long
This is late July. I had no excuse
Yesterday, when I checked on him in the morning
He was on his back, motionless
My heart sank as I tapped the sides of his cell
He didn't move
I reached inside and flipped him upright with my index finger
He immediately took his defensive posture
Sigh!
Still, I kept him
Another sleepless night had me wobbly today
I am rarely up before the sun
As a night-owl, I am infrequently up before noon
This morning I staggered outside before six
Steven in tow
I tipped his receptacle, spilling him out onto the patio
He landed on his feet and froze
"Run, you're free" I declared
He did not
I poked at him with a twig, but he did not budge
His feet had found a firm grip on the rough concrete
I poked him again, and he reared up, snapping the thin stick with his pincers
"Alright, I get it, you're pissed, but you are emancipated now."
Apparently, bugs do not speak English.
I backed off a little, squatted down next to him and waited
Only a few inches away was a large patch of aromatic, white and purple phlox
"C'mon, Steven, shake a leg... or six."
It took several more minutes, but he started to crawl in the right direction.
The sun had cleared the tree line
It was already eighty degrees and the air was saturated
Beads of sweat imitated tears as Steven staggered out of sight
Back in my room, writing this, I feel a little more alone than accustomed
I know Steven is out there though

Kelly Kurt

Substantiation (Limerick)

It might be that I'm just a big clod
But I find it incredibly odd
That if it could be done
Why has nobody won
A Nobel for discovering God

Kelly Kurt

Subtle (Senryu)

Edge of perception
Feather on an elephant
Deafening whisper

Kelly Kurt

Success (Haiku)

Achievement of dreams
Indefinably measured
To each man, his own

Kelly Kurt

Success In Trying (Haiku)

I saw two nestlings
One tried to fly, but it fell
Falling was success

Kelly Kurt

Sultry (Haiku)

Tall glass of iced tea
Condensation is pooling
Mingling with my sweat

Kelly Kurt

Summer (Senryu Series)

Heat

Builds through the dog days
Sun's rays beat directly down
Cooling bill rises

Camping

Living in a tent
Sharing space with ants and flies
Missing your own bed

Swimming

Moving through water
Skinny dipping at midnight
Assuaging the warmth

Ice Cream

Frozen moo-juice treat
Brain freeze when eaten too fast
Portable in cone

Picnics

Al fresco repast
Tartan tablecloth tableau
Cozier with two

Suntans

Overexposure
Skin cancer antecedent
Farmer's face and arms

Vacations

Three months off for kids

Stressful family road trip
High-priced memories

Kelly Kurt

Summer Solstice (Biku)

Longest day of year - It's downhill from here
The sun reaches furthest north - Daylight's moving back from forth
Only to retreat - Though increasing heat

Look, up in the air
Is it two haikus? Three couplets?
No, it's a Biku! ?

: -)

Kelly Kurt

Summer; After 4: 00

My west window is open
The curtains pulled to one side
Light pours in like smoldering shafts
Glinting off of every surface
Discovering all that's reflective
Blistering the already piquant air
Winter's sun is too low
The effect is diminished
The dog days howl
Flushing my room with vitality
Beading my brow
Unmasking veils of dust
Exposing my untidiness
Summer angle poses for a flash
Igniting the late afternoon
Til distant trees occlude

Kelly Kurt

Summer's Last Gasp

September was born a week ago
Fading blooms acknowledged her nativity
The sun genuflected further south in deference
Equinox's whisper became more strident
But summer did not want to concede
With a last gasp of impudence, it bellowed
"I shall not go quietly! "
Pitilessly, the furnace was stoked anew
Atmosphere steeped til dripping
Inexorable frost, looming on the horizon
Theros exhaled powerfully and thundered
"Remember me! Remember me! "

Kelly Kurt

Sun (Tanka)

Distant yellow disk
Navigating east to west
Deposing darkness
Intimating a fresh start
Dependably consistent

Kelly Kurt

Sun Dance (Limerick)

I put on all my leather and lace
What resulted wasn't really grace
The sun didn't come out
Glad no one was about ☐
Because the moon came out in its place

Kelly Kurt

Sunday (Tanka)

Week's start, weekend's end
What a duplicitous day
A promise of rest
But only if chores are done
And Monday is looming large

Kelly Kurt

Sunday Afternoon

Sitting on the patio
Dark shirt absorbing sunbeams
The world is only a butterfly
Calling on a snapdragon

Kelly Kurt

Sunset (Haiku)

Kaleidoscope sky
Distant horizon alive
The glory of sunset

Kelly Kurt

Sunset Cicada Song

Ear-piercingly shrill what the wind conducts
Unseen in branches and boughs, they synchronize
The sinking sun signaling their sonic serenade
Rising and falling in cadence and intensity
Until the last suggestion of twilight expires
Yielding center stage to the crickets

Kelly Kurt

Sun-Shower

Two weeks of sticky heat and cloudiness
Murky, dispirited days overlapped
Monotone monotony loitered
Today's early evening sky was punctured
A roughly circular opening emerged
A third of the way to every horizon
The perimeter billowed erratically
From the halo of blue overhead
Fell the finest of raindrops
Perfectly perpendicular
Highlighted by the bashful sun
To the east, a polychromatic arc
Seemed to bridge the poles
Progeny of a sun-shower

Kelly Kurt

Superficial (Senryu)

I'm not in the top
The majority best me
In skin deep respects

Kelly Kurt

Superstitions (Senryu Series)

Friday the Thirteenth

Thought to bring bad luck
In Western societies
Horror film franchise

Rabbits Foot

Just the left hind foot
Shot in a cemetery
During a full moon

Knock on Wood

Must be done when said
Incanted to not tempt fate
Invoking dryads

Something Old, New, Borrowed and Blue

Wards off evil eye
Averts infertility
Baffles bachelors

Bad News Comes in Threes

Especially deaths
Based on ritual numbers
Baseball strikes and outs?

Beginner's Luck

The pressure is off
Just confirmation bias
First time is a charm?

Breaking a Mirror

Seven years of bad luck

Touch a shard to a tombstone
To negate the curse

Kelly Kurt

Supplements (Senryu Series)

Vitamin C

Water soluble

When I C food, I eat it

Scurvy without it

Vitamin D

Soluble in fat

Dermal synthesis by sun

Obviates rickets

Iron

Oxygen transport

Why hemoglobin is red

Strike while it is hot

Calcium

Found in dairy foods

Prevents osteoporosis

Why she sells sea shells

Fish Oil

Healthy brain support

Polyunsaturated

For squeaky tuna?

Zinc

With copper, makes brass

Essential trace element

Put zee dishes there

Saw Palmetto

Miniature palm tree

Claimed to be good for prostate
Did you see one too?

Kelly Kurt

Supplies! (Limerick)

National ninja-awareness-day
Is still more than seven months away
Tho alarms have been set
So that you won't forget
It will sneak up on you anyway

Kelly Kurt

Supreme (?) Court

How can we believe a law is sound
When the ultimate minds of rules□
Each with different views expound
Opinions from divergent schools
At five to four, a decision passes
By the narrowest of margins
And now is law for the masses
If you ask me, it's not a bargain
I always thought that right was right
And therefore it ought be writ
How can nine so erudite
Come so often to a split

Kelly Kurt

Surreal Cubed (Limerick)

Pablo, being a talented man
Was asked by the police if he can
Draw a sketch of the hoods
Who had stolen the goods
They detained the corpse of Paul Cézanne

Kelly Kurt

Swamped (Limerick)

She'll get engaged sooner or later
Said the mom of a vile young `gator
It would be quite a shock
If she'd marry that croc
Cause he don't even wanna date her

Kelly Kurt

Sweat (Haiku)

Beading on the brow
Rendering the skin a gleam
Hard labor's trophy

Kelly Kurt

Swifts

Dusk is their chosen hour
Competing with the bats
How do they not collide?
Dozens serrate the sky
Many in full synchrony
Some, independently
All in organized chaos
Swept back slivers of wings accelerate dives
The same razors struggle riotously against a breeze
A counterpoint to their brusque, angular divergences
Circling and screeching
Plucking pests in midcourse
Seasons on the wing
Languishing luminosity signals an abrupt exodus
Constellations take their stead in the sky

Kelly Kurt

Swimming Lessons (Limerick)

To stay silent, and thought as a fool
At least fitting with Sam Clemens' rule
Is to retain some doubt
Yet so many still shout
From the shallow end of the gene pool

Kelly Kurt

Syria (Pray For Peace)

More than two hundred thousand innocents dead
In this ancient land besieged for millennia
Borders mark artificial boundaries
Ideologies mark artificial disputing
Violence, threats and posturing
Mock and mark artificial solutions
Millions displaced, a humanitarian crisis
What is the solution?
Pray for peace

Kelly Kurt

Tactile

An extended hand, invitation for the same
The young woman had just finished her tour
Reviewing the church for insurance purposes
Instantly, I knew that I had gripped too tightly
What my palm felt was fragile
A small, warm, soft hand
She was not a goddess
I had no thoughts
But I recalled
This is the hand of a woman

Kelly Kurt

Take It With You

Where do you go now?
Remember where you have been
And take it with you

Kelly Kurt

Takers V Givers

Where do I fit in?
My estimation is low
Take, take, and take
I don't always realize this at the time
But it's true
Consolation is equivocal
Truth, embarrassing

Kelly Kurt

Tanka (Tanka)

Artfully crafted
First eliciting the scene
Subtle shift midway
Allows the reader to feel
Subjectively exploring

Kelly Kurt

Tattoo (Haiku)

Dermal adornment
Momentary decision
Lifetime souvenir

Kelly Kurt

Tear (Haiku)

Mute saline symbol
Decorates corner of eye
With both grief and joy

Kelly Kurt

Television (Senryu)

Mind-numbing routine
Just a push of a button
Reality lost

Kelly Kurt

Temporal Disarming (Limerick)

Life flits by and gives us a shiver
Faster than the darts bows deliver
To slow down living's pace
You just have to replace
The arrow of time in its quiver

Kelly Kurt

Temporary Being

Do you know me?
Neutrality is forbidden
Do not be one sided
I require truth□
If you know me
You know
I want and need facts
How can I improve?
I hate it, but I am human
Teach me to be such
I may not like the designation
But it is accurate
I'm Scared
My thoughts will end
What can I do?

Kelly Kurt

Ten Below (Haiku)

Little is moving
Molecules slow their tango
Winter's dirge is played

Kelly Kurt

Tequila (Haiku)

With or without lime
Transports you to tomorrow
Or the day after

Kelly Kurt

Tête-À-Tête (Tanka)

Good conversation

A fractal journey of thought

Undetermined course

Evolving effortlessly

Untraceable origin

Kelly Kurt

Thanks

Can it be any simpler?
One syllable word
Half a breath of air
Six letters
Why is it so hard to say?
To write?
Its rewards are abundant
Its cost, modest
Thanks for reading

Kelly Kurt

Thanksgiving Thunder

Visceral rumble
In the distance
Echoed internally
Both foreboding

Kelly Kurt

That's A Croc (Limerick)

If you want to catch alligator
You have to learn sooner or later
To put meat on a hook
Without having to look
And thus become a master baiter

Kelly Kurt

The Acorn (Haiku)

Where do you go now?
The acorn with this choice says
"Undoubtedly, up! "

Kelly Kurt

The Back Of My Hand

February is a cruel month
Too cold and forbidding in the upper mid-west
To venture outside, just for diversion
I sat in dizzying silence instead
Under fluorescent light
And studied the back of my hand

The skin seemed thirsty, dull and furrowed
The skin of an older man
Blue tributaries of veins meandered like worms
Tendons bulged and heaved with every finger twitch
Small brown spots stippled
Deep parentheses emphasized my knuckles

Scars from my youth have been stonewashed
Their memories now only abstract
I thought I knew the back of my hand
It's been there fifty-seven years
But I never really looked at it before
Now, I know it like.....

Kelly Kurt

The Bard's Prayer (Satire)

Oh, Kelly
Who art a heathen
Fallow is thy name
Thy sarcasm comes
Thy brain is numb
As humanity has driven you raving
Give us this day your daily rant
And forgive us our fantasies
As we have just supposed what we've been fed is fact
And lead us not into confusion
But deliver us from ourselves
Amen

Kelly Kurt

The Beast Of Fear (A Poem From My Childrens' Book)

The beast of fear did come last night
And filled the air with gloom
The frightened people hid from sight
It walked into the room
A little boy stood smiling there
His eyes aglow with love
At that the beast did stop and stare
The boy spoke like a dove
"Hello" he said, "my name is Brad."
The beast did cock his head
And then he said, "Why are you sad? "
"Because the people fled."
"They left and hid away from me
They just don't understand
All I want is for them to see
I want to lend a hand."
"They fear me because I'm different
My face is scarred and bent
If only they would trust in me
They'd think me heaven sent."
"I trust you." Said the little boy
The beast began to cry
"Don't cry" he said. "I'll make them see."
The beast just asked him, "Why? "
"Because you're good, down deep inside
So what if you're not the same? "
"You're just as good as they or I
Their fear is what's to blame."
"You're smart." The beast did kindly say
"For a boy of only five."
"If others were as smart as you
Your race would surely thrive."
The others were all listening
They slowly came inside
"We're sorry", they said, "Let's all be friends."
The beast just smiled and sighed
"I'm glad you understand me now."
The beast said with a grin
"It took this youth to show us how

Our new trust could begin.”
So now they’re living happily
Together they work and play
No longer do they fear the beast
Their trust will never stray

Kelly Kurt

The Best Poem Ever!

Ha, made you look.

Just kidding, a real poem follows:

#####

Reading and writing poetry is my guilty pleasure
Carried away by my own words or those of others
Closing off the senses to everything else
Living in the moment created by emotional design
In that moment, that eternal moment
Each poem is the best poem ever

Kelly Kurt

The Colors Of Life

Jealousy's monster is a vibrant green
Raging hate blazes a fire engine red
Canary yellow tints the coward's spine
A deep blue weights the dejected man's head
Sinister black stains the heart of the vile
Purple's majesty corrupts the elite
But the brightest of whites is the result
When every color of life on Earth meets

Kelly Kurt

The Day After

Your girlfriend called it quits□
Someone dented your new car
The doctor said you have cancer
You embarrassed yourself in public
The boss gave you a pink slip
All terrible events in life
Seem to freeze that moment in time
But it has been my experience
Every dreadful day
Is followed by the day after

Kelly Kurt

The Difference

Between right and wrong
Between good and bad
Between hope and despair
Between courage and fear
Between love and hate
Between confidence and doubt
Lies between your ears

Kelly Kurt

The Final Solution

German nation, germination
Fermentation of extermination
Occupation, domination
Exploitation of population
Degradation, abomination
Decimation of civilization
Demonstration of desecration
Profanation, fumigation
Machination for truncation
Our obligation, commemoration
Never again

Kelly Kurt

The First Test

Where do you go now?
The first time that this matters
Will test all the rest

Kelly Kurt

The Human Body (Senryu Series)

Eyes

Windows to the soul
Evolution's greatest success
Always melt my heart

Ears

Bilateral adjuncts
Ornament recipients
Collectors of waves

Nose

Pinocchio knows
Eyeglasses' requirement
Eskimo kisser

Mouth

Input and output
Frequently better left shut
Upturned corners cheer

Shoulders

First to be sunburned
Burden bearer of Atlas
Up means I don't know

Arms

T-Rex shortcoming
Embracing appendages
Hold back or release

Breasts

Mammalian mark

Cultural fascination
Neonatal flasks

Elbows

Supplier of grease
Get the attention of ribs
Demander of room

Hands

Delicate and strong
Twenty-seven bones in each
Comforting when held

Fingers

Ring reservation
Bad mathematician's boon
Most dexterous digits

Butt

Swift kick objective
Politely a derrière
Kardashian brand

Legs

Locomotion limbs
Go all the way up Gisele
Lap prerequisite

Feet

Ancient measurers
Contaminators of socks□
Naked lovers of grass

Toes

Help keep you balanced

The first does all the shopping
Blister stomping ground

Kelly Kurt

The Ides Of March

One hundred fifty-four days
That's how long it's been
One hundred fifty-four days
It may seem silly to a Texan
Or a Floridian
But it has been one hundred fifty-four days
Since it has been seventy degrees
I have lived in the upper Midwest for six decades
Every year I count the days between the last
And the first
Seventy degree day
This year, it was one hundred fifty-four days
A little better than average
Though piles of snow remain
Beware the Ides of March
Yes, it will be seventy today
Don't let that spoil you
Snow will most likely fall again
Before the next
Seventy degree day

Kelly Kurt

The Journey

A man did march from dawn to dusk
Each day since he was born
Through forests dark and fields unmarked
'Cross mountains, quagmires and thorns
At night he'd sleep beneath the stars
Dewy pasture for his bed
Just to take to foot again
Ere the east began glow red
A singular urge in his soul
Impelled his arduous trek
No obstacle or maelstrom
His true course could deflect
Arrow straight and ever ahead
Both moments and years passed by
From where his journey first was wrought
'Tho never and end was nigh
At last one day his final foot fell
The Earth bore his weight no more
Yet onward etern goeth he
As light each new day adorns

Kelly Kurt

The Last Week Of My Life

Should knowing make a difference?

A week, a year, a century

What, if anything, should change?

What should remain the same?

Would anything really matter?

More

Less

Do I want to know?

Would you?

Is this day seven?

Kelly Kurt

The Lifted Weight

It wasn't a mortal sin
This deed from my past
But words said in anger
That haunted my soul
"I hate you."
Half a lifetime had since passed
Many days it wasn't recalled
But when it was, I wept
Footsteps seemed to crush
I was shorter somehow
Then I saw him
My words did not get to be spoken
Before I heard, "I forgive you."
Three words shackled
Three words set me free
The weight had been lifted

Kelly Kurt

The Night Time (Originally A Song)

As the last ray of light abandons the daytime sky
And the velvety dark supersedes
I count one by one all the stars as they appear
Sprouting up through the dark just like weeds

Oh, take comfort in the night
The cool crisp air will elevate your mood
Listen to the crickets as they chirr
They know the night has powers not understood

The bright crescent moon slowly rises over head
Romancing each degree of its arc
My problems seem so small, when I'm amidst it all
A simple panacea is the dark

Why must the nighttime ever end?
Why must the dusk give way to dawn?
Can we stop the rising sun?
Cut loose the reins of time by which it's drawn

Now the stars and the moon slowly dim and fade away
As the bright sunshine of morning interrupts
The rays of new morn creeping slowly o'er the hills
Are stronger than the darkness they corrupt

Dew drops disappear and the crickets cease their song
As my face is slowly warmed by the sun
I live for the night, and with the passage of the day
A brand new special night will have begun

Kelly Kurt

The Nutty Processor (Limerick)

Your rusted robot tried to kiss you
Then said, "When you're dead, I will miss you"
Its shrink said, "Don't panic
Go to a mechanic
It's simply a metal health issue"

Kelly Kurt

The One About 'normal'

The best way to define what is normal
Deduce what it's all about□
Take people from the ends of the spectrum
Add them and average them out

Kelly Kurt

The One About Definition

To agree on practically anything
Every term must be defined
Seems even the meaning of what 'is', is
Requires being refined

Kelly Kurt

The One About Fashion

I can't conceive of a more asinine thing
Than fussing o'er what is worn□
Whatever happened to the common sense
Choosing function over form

Kelly Kurt

The One About Hyperbole

Do you know someone that's 'always' talking?
Or that 'never' can sit still
As big as an ox? As slow as a snail?
You don't, and I doubt that you ever will

Kelly Kurt

The One About Romance

Of all the posited structures of love□
The most abstruse is romance
A mixture of tradition and hormones
Employed to get into pants

Kelly Kurt

The One About Youth

With no definitive upper boundary
We all struggle to maintain it
The young have no idea what they possess
Til they too seek to retain it

Kelly Kurt

The Panama Papers

It went without saying
The unimaginably rich want more
Aphrodisiac
Who is in control?
Not the masses
Twenty trillion in taxes, unpaid
Far different rules
How does this mindset exist?
It can't be taken with
There is no with
What now?
Not a damn thing!
This population is doomed

Kelly Kurt

The Pariah

A forest of fingers, rigid and subtly aimed
Deflect from behind carefully disguised autobiographies
Long practiced whispers, like air slowly escaping a balloon
Are intended to be heard
A sense of ownership in this source of casuistry
Permits its presence
But only at a distance
Penance long since complete
The pariah dutifully lowers his eyes
And shuffles apace to sanctuary
His departure does not lighten the atmosphere
In fact, masks get retightened
Fingers, now heavier, search for a new target
Every surface seems mirrored
Back in his haven, the pariah heals
The ambient malignancy, still present outside his windows
Has no effect when separated from its source
Armor comes off
And stomach and heart return to proper position
With a sigh, the pariah close his eyes

Kelly Kurt

The Philosophy Of Poetry

Not all philosophers are poets
But all poets are philosophers
Poetry sees what is there and what isn't
Poetry observes and describes the intangible
Poetry portrays pictures with words
Poetry leads readers to their own thoughts
Without force or coercion
Poetry perceives the good in the bad
And the spectacular in the ordinary
Poetry isn't about truths, or absolutes
But ideas, views, moods and impressions
Poetry dreams of the ideal
And laments the inadequacies
Poetry has no egotism or agenda
It searches the realm of the conceivable
And explores the empire of the improbable
The love and dissemination of wisdom
Perfume on a pulse point
The fragrance of thinking

Kelly Kurt

The Plan

Upon reflection, no answers came
The number of questions grew
Results of deep thought remain the same
Nothing beyond what I knew
Am I trying in vain to understand?
Or will persistence reap its reward?
In life, I'm but a grain of sand□
Among an endless horde
My mind is teased, from time to time
With glimpses of the plan
I see a ladder I must climb
With every other man
We all must try to see the light
To open all that's sealed
And not give up without a fight
Only then will it be revealed

Kelly Kurt

The Poems Of Raymond Sawyer

A simple, gentle soul
Repeating the concept of respect
Freeing his mind of all else
Gifting humanity with pureness
The stars, moon, sun, sky and angels
Flit in his mind
What is poetry?
Ask Raymond

Kelly Kurt

The Puzzle

I looked very closely
And what did I see?
I was more than a piece of a puzzle
The puzzle was me

Kelly Kurt

The Same Brush

Diversity colors our world rainbow bright
Although some want to thoroughly crush
Focusing on negative stereotypes
Painting everyone with the same brush
All Muslims aren't mad, nor do all rich men scheme
Every Irishman is not a lush
We must all harmonize as brothers and stop
Painting everyone with the same brush

Kelly Kurt

The Seasons (Haiku)

Four headed dragon
Circling the sun by Earth's side
Breathing fire and ice

Kelly Kurt

The Secret

As the dark blue juice of the moon drips slowly on our fears
My eyes begin to boil as the tide kills all the sugar in my ears
That decorates the halls of the fertile robots
With the smell of sin and deception
That echoes in the past forever

Then the minds of a million nobodies
Collide with the force of a peanut
And send the tranquil atoms to the end of a distant tomorrow
With the hopes of raising the voices of bones in the river of madness
To greet the forthcoming void

By the trees of misunderstanding, they gather for the news
My message is filled with metaphors
The crowd seems quite amused
Then shadows fell and dust arose
Screams are heard as rivers froze
The air grew thick with thoughts of words
And all the sites of which they heard

Then questions rise and tensions mount
As the shells of souls begin to melt
'Til the puddles of years overflow and nothing counts
But the shock of the revelation is felt

Now the time has come
Will we be saved from the impact of reality?
I tried to warn, but all in vain
Nobody would believe me
So as we all drown in the misconception of the future of man
A hand goes up
The flowers wilt
The truth is here
The mountains land
The doors swing open....And
A cloud emerges
The people fall, then disappear
'Til only two are left
And they walk hand-in-hand through the gates of hope

The secret forever kept

Kelly Kurt

The Slip (Haiku)

Exceedingly low
Coefficient of friction
I need some aspirin

Kelly Kurt

The Thief

What right these days our youth to plunder?
Night's sleep their portion too
Too oft I wonder why
But this forsakes present and future
Generations come and go
Lives bloom and fade
Love, fear, greed, emotions
Eons of life, eons of time
Wasted time, stolen time
Time

Life is limited, transient
This is etched in stone
But time is never truly stolen
It is lost through apathy
Yes, it will eventually end
End for you End for me
Thinking of what must be is what robs us
Doing what brings happiness may not slow
And will not stop what will be
But it highlights and immortalizes the moments

Cruel joke, life, I scoff
Your illusion is eternal
But not damning
What I have now, I enjoy
What you offer, I envelop
When the arrow of time dulls and my turn ends
I will not have been robbed
I will have been the thief

Kelly Kurt

The Threshold

I remember the first instance when I was space
Time was abstract
Gravity, ineffectual
Dimensions, meaningless
Words were less than impotent
I simply was

The 'me' that speaks when stillness reigns
Inner voice of involuntary thoughts
Excised
No pain, no hunger or sensation
Suffused with peace
Home

You were there

Kelly Kurt

The Ticking Clock

Hung on the wall of my room□
Battery driven circle tallies heartbeats
Between the nine and twelve
The second hand ticks are heard
Struggling up-hill

Kelly Kurt

The Walk

The storms had cleared, on the outside
The sun had come out, on the outside
Inside, dark and turbulent still
I festered
Pain of all species governed in Secret
Cleaving to my essence

A walk, I thought, would shake the dust
So beyond the walls I went
Here, and there, nature vibrated and hummed
Loosening the grit
A smile wandered across my course
Assuaging the stings

The walk was not long
It had no predetermined course
But it carried me home

Kelly Kurt

The Whole Joke

Standing over the sink eating dinner
Some dry meatloaf that had been out all day
I giggled a bit as I swallowed it
With some milk that had expired in May
I wasn't just a typical bachelor
But an all too comical divorced man
Living alone, with nothing of my own
And all the time in the world on my hands
You've seen it before, on TV sit-coms
The divorced guy that's abandoned and broke
Wearing old sweat pants and needing a shave
I'm not just the punchline, I'm the whole joke

Kelly Kurt

There Must Be Another Whey (Limerick)

Curdled milk can bring on a disease
Even little Miss Muffet agrees
To keep it inside her
Advises the spider
Change your recipe for cottage cheese

Kelly Kurt

Theseus' Ship

I am what I will become
Always becoming
Skin shedding to become dust
Cells replaced when worn out
One by one, atoms exchanged
Novel thoughts supplanting erstwhile conceptions
Spent moments molted with each tick
A river, always and never the same

Kelly Kurt

They Can'T All Be Gems..(Can They?)

I think I'm an average person and poet
With an ego and high hopes when I write
But when reading some of the poems that I've penned
I react with more distaste than delight

Did Shakespeare or Whitman ever write a flop?
An elegy about which they were ashamed
If they destroyed some before they got published
For that undertaking they could not be blamed

They can't all be gems, but how can one decide
Which ones should live and which ones to let perish
When as a poet every word is sacred
How do you execute that which you cherish?

Kelly Kurt

They Say

They say no man is an island
They say you can't live on bread alone
They say the pen is mightier than the sword
They say beggars can't be choosers
They say misery loves company
What they don't say, is who 'they' are

Kelly Kurt

They're History (Not Really)

I never saw my great, grandparents
In fact, I have no idea who they were
I know nothing about them
Not even their names

Kelly Kurt

Thief (Tanka)

Malicious creature

Cowardly, clandestine crook

Pilfering assets

Seizing what isn't theirs

Including your peace of mind

Kelly Kurt

Thin Ice (Limerick)

This probably doesn't need stating
But some things aren't suited for mating
My opinion I'll share
You may not want to pair
Sumo wrestlers with figure skating

Kelly Kurt

Thin Skin (Senryu)

Sticks and stones damage
Words only have that power
If you allow them

Kelly Kurt

Things To Come (Haiku)

Forty-sixth's week end
Inaugurated with snow
Unsettling portent

Kelly Kurt

Think!

Impotent or uncaring
Otherwise, nonexistent
In each case, not any help
No excuses
As millions of children agonizingly die
While your prayer for a nice job gets answered
Not for us to second guess?

Kelly Kurt

Thinking About Thinking About Thinking

I, unfortunately, don't always prevail
A moment is all it requires
If I have any control
I want to use it
But my mind finds ways
A millisecond of lapse
Regresses me to human
Who wants that?
I don't
It's part of what keeps me awake
What does that say, At least for me?
Control is tenuous, if achievable
I think that I think I must try

Kelly Kurt

Third And Last Millennium

Animals

Disproportionately destructive

Definition of hubris

Hyper-evolved egos

Hypo-realized potential

Able to anticipate the sun's death

Acknowledging eventual need to flee

Populating the galaxy

Ignoring the present

We have no future

A few billion years won't matter

When a few hundred extinguish

Kelly Kurt

This Is Not A Poem

This is not a poem

The dictionary defines a poem as

A piece of writing that partakes of the nature of both speech and song

That is nearly always rhythmical, usually metaphorical

And often exhibits such formal elements

As meter, rhyme, and stanzaic structure.

This is not a poem

The heart defines a poem as

Enlightening, entertaining, suggestive and beautiful

A piece of literature that beguiles and woos

Rhyming, engrossing, inviting and exhilarating

A moment out of time which resonates

This is not a poem

I don't know what it is

Do you?

Kelly Kurt

This Poem Will Self-Destruct In...10-9-8...

Short term memory affects you every day
In the span of merely seconds
Triviality slips away

I can't even recall my own phone number
Let alone the last poem I penned
(The brain's way to disencumber?)

Try as I might, when meeting a man of fame
Even his popularity
Will not help me recall his name

From your mind, very soon, these words will be plucked
I spoke the truth in the title
Shortly, this poem will self-destruct

Kelly Kurt

This Statement Is A Lie

Contradictory truth values

Paradox negating fact

Cartesian logic

Under attack

She once said she loved me

And no other guy

What wasn't revealed was

This statement's a lie

Kelly Kurt

This Time Of Year

Every year at this time I feel this way
A certain vicissitude predominates my mood
Reminiscence outweighs current ambiance
Decades of familiarity deluge the contemporary
The first crocus awakens my optimism
The initial sunburn stimulates painful youth
Autumn's shift in hue gloriously demoralizes
December's rime deadens and festoons
Each day transports in its own way
A pristine encounter, a distinctive sequential impression
A recognizable twinkling of yesteryear
Each day resounds distinctively, yet recognizable
Every instance at this time of year

Kelly Kurt

Thought (Haiku)

With every new thought
A fresh world springs to life
Is that not magic?

Kelly Kurt

Thoughtfulness (Senryu)

Considerate act
May not alter one's whole life
But can change a day

Kelly Kurt

Three Hundred Twenty-Seven Pots

Lining two large benches
Ten week old seedlings
Wide variety of species and cultivars
Winter born
Sill reared
Soaking sun
Awaiting Earth
One tenth scale
Head start on summer
Beds and planters prepped
Planned planting pends
Patience, a priority
Annual ritual
Daily joy
Blooms will come
Blooms will fade
Leaves will brown
Stems will wilt and fall
Death, inevitable
Three hundred twenty-seven pots
One me
Metaphor
Microcosm
Magic

Kelly Kurt

Three Quarks For Mistress Marge (Limerick)

A beautiful young neutron named Marge
(Who happened to have breasts that were large)
Asked after her bender
"What is owed, bartender? "
"For you" he said, "there isn't a charge"

Kelly Kurt

Threshold

Never before, on so many fronts
Plagues have decimated
Great wars have slaughtered
Millennia of disasters
Natural and devised
We have bounced back
But never recovered
One planet, one tribe of men
Stupid men
Selfish men
Deadly men
At our apogee in some ways
At our nadir in many others
Teetering on climatic calamity
Trembling on the brink of nuclear holocaust
Starving
Poisoned
Toying with Armageddon
Closer than we think
Closer than ever
Moments from too late

Kelly Kurt

Thumb (Haiku)

Cruel hammer's target
Gardeners emerald mascot
Babe's pacifier

Kelly Kurt

Thunder (Haiku)

With a potent roar
Shock waves announce lightning
A little too late

Kelly Kurt

Thunderclap

I was wakened at precisely four-eighteen
By a single, booming detonation of thunder
The coursing rain had just soothed me to sleep
And I had yet to give birth to a dream
The oppressive night hung in my room
Like a curtain of leaden vapor
The warm side of my pillow was steeped in my sweat
I drew back the drapes and watched the downpour
Backlit by a distant streetlamp
A braid of gilded electricity bridged the horizon
Provoking another resounding roar
Again and again the sky lit
Shadowed by echoing rumbles
Twenty minutes later, all was still
Steam rose from the grass
The air was saturated but cooler
The silence was supernatural
I flipped my pillow to the dry side
And peacefully fell back to sleep

Kelly Kurt

Thwarted

A subtle ambient lightening augured the diurnal transition
Cavernous yawns and rebellious eyelids
External evidence that my brain was throwing in the towel
I took off my glasses and put down my pen
Removed my shoes and fluffed my pillow
Most days, I crawl into bed at this time
A habit more than a must
Well knowing a protracted tossing will ensue
But last night, I was somnolent
Sleep would engulf me soon
One knee up, prepared to inch into bed
Oh rapture, joy. No struggle, no deferment
A swelling hum advanced forthwith
From my left, all was destroyed
A fat fly winged into my ear
Morpheus murdered

Kelly Kurt

Tick Or Tock

One A.M., think what you will
Weekday or weekend
This is early to me
Pre sunrise is not too late
Seems most things happen after noon
What do I miss?
Sunrise
Time cards?
Five is comfortable
Seems right
When light isn't the main factor
All blends the same
Clocks, not as critical as calendars
Calendars, artificial

Kelly Kurt

Tiger Lilies (Haiku)

Ferocious flower
Stalking summer from on high
Mimicking monarchs

Kelly Kurt

Time (Will Tell)

Time, what are its boundaries?
When did it begin?
When will it end?
Will it end?
Can it be slowed down?
Can I be its master?
Or am I forever its slave?
My friend on occasion, it heals
As my enemy, relentless, it brings despair
Am I contained in time
or is time contained in me?
Will I ever come to understand?
Only time will tell

Kelly Kurt

Time (Senryu Series)

Seconds

Flash of existence
Sometimes an eternity
Yes, more roast beef please

Minutes

Fragment of an hour
Exaggerated seconds
Record of meeting

Hours

Tend to drag at work
Revolution of big hand
It is not just yours

Days

Sunrise to sunrise
One axial rotation
No two are the same

Weeks

Start anew Sunday
Paycheck delineation
Vacation time frame

Months

Calendar pages
One full of Sundays is long
Named by the ancients

Years

Orbital cycle

Anniversary markers
I have stopped counting

Kelly Kurt

Time Dilation (Limerick)

The time machine put on some weight
To the future now can't navigate
Tho destiny beckons
Just goes back four seconds
For historic amounts on its plate

Kelly Kurt

Time To Kill?

Sixty minutes in the course of a life
Should not be that hard to fill
No excuse to be bored
The perturbed mother roared
I'd die for some time to kill
Later that night when the kids were in bed
And the husband still at work
She had nothing but time
And it seemed so sublime
But soon it started to irk
Not a soul to talk to and naught to do
It seems so damn deploring
What would I tell the kids?
I am in for some ribs
I'm not just bored, I'm boring!

Kelly Kurt

Time; For My Love (Sonnet)

Seconds of time, your numbers are ordered
Tho one beckons two, two cannot call one
If each of these seconds could be hoarded
And spent at my will before time was done
Each second apiece, would I put aside
A cache of moments on you to be spent
With the sureness of the incoming tide
No intentions to repay what's been leant
I'd cede all my time and give it to you
For your providence clearly outshines mine
The brilliance of your color pales my hue
And yet selfish and desiring your wine
Parched I'd remain, ever loving you sweet
For the one that I love, time would I cheat

Kelly Kurt

Time's Game (Haiku)

As it engulfed me
Time played its usual games
I lost by just one

Kelly Kurt

Tis The Reason (Limerick)

Working girls want lawn tools with a bow
A one syllable laugh's not much show
Saint Nick utters these three
It jogs his memory
And that's why Santa says ho ho ho

Kelly Kurt

Today (Haiku)

Yesterday is gone
Tomorrow never arrives
Dwell in this twinkling

Kelly Kurt

Tonight

Once again by myself
What can compare?
No other voice
It's just me
How do you listen to that?
So loud
Years have passed
Not just some arbitrary number
Substantial!
Damn!
Some are too young
My voice, unnoticed

Kelly Kurt

Too Literal (Limerick)

The question I have been asked is why
I dropped an hourglass from the sky
I've felt its duration
Now want the sensation
Of actually seeing time fly

Kelly Kurt

Too Much

Thirteen ounces didn't do the trick
Why should I think a few more would?
A liter did not help either
Oh, I will feel it tomorrow!
How many times?
Nothing goes away
Nothing changes
In the moment of the buzz
Nothing else matters
Those seconds over rule sense
Promises made
Known only to be broken
Alcoholism is a disease
I am diseased

Kelly Kurt

Tools (Senryu Series)

Chisel

Beveled metal blade
Hit with hammer by sculptor
Swindle and defraud

Drill

Little boring bit
Training with repetition
Line drive to pitcher

Hammer

Carpenter's driver
Gun firing mechanism
Small bone in the ear

Hoe

Murderer of weeds
Jolly giant's syllable
Is that land I see

Wrench

Used to twist your nuts
Painful injury to back
Aching of the heart

Screwdriver

Flat head and Philips
Wrist rotated fastener
Vodka and orange juice

Saw

Teeth cutting through wood

Dizzying when paired with see
Trite aphorism

Lever

Force multiplier
Archimedes' Earth mover
Cockney girl advice

Kelly Kurt

Toothaches (Haiku)

Beyond endurance
This intolerable pain
What's worse than toothaches?

Kelly Kurt

Top That!

Great towers have been erected
Vessels have entered the Oort
The atom, harnessed to our will
Computing growth, exponential
Medicine can heal the dying
Wondrous creations
Some may even say miraculous
 I have made a person!

Kelly Kurt

Tornado (Haiku)

Rotating column
Connecting the sky and ground
Nature's dark beauty

Kelly Kurt

Total Lunar Eclipse (Tanka)

Terra's shadow casts
Routinely unseen in space
Darkness on darkness
When Selene wanders too close
She shrouds her face with a blush

Kelly Kurt

Tradition (Haiku)

An age old practice
Harking back to bygone days
Keeping them alive

Kelly Kurt

Traits (Haiku)

Singing with laughter
And crying in silent pain
Makes us all human

Kelly Kurt

Transfixed

Inert concrete and stone of my room
Was mining my momentum
Expunging authenticity
I required nature
I pulled up a canvas chair
Splayed its legs and set it two feet away
August's sticky heat was mature
Life at its zenith
Thirty square feet of concentrated organic diversity before me
Zinnias, tightly packed and solidly bloomed
Crowded and bustling with insects
Beguiling and modifying me
Hours and moments exchanged status
Optimistically yellow finches fed to my right
Plucking petite seeds from ornamental sunflowers
My elbows dug into my knees
Overlapped hands supporting my chin
Staring

Kelly Kurt

Transient Landscape

It is easy to see the stark difference
Of the landscape from summer to winter
But it doesn't happen overnight□
Incremental daily changes flow
Like a meticulous flip book
Our senses can't detect
The hour by hour growth
The subtle changes of hue
Or the unfolding of a bud
But the grass does green
The bare branches do erupt
Dandelions furtively go to seed
Crocuses vanish as tulips depose
And in turn, the rose has its day
Even the fauna that subjugate
Emerge in their time like shade
Robins and rabbits
Butterflies and beetles
Seem to simply materialize
Shadows morph their Silhouettes
As nature's Evanescent spectacle
Funnel through measured intervals

Kelly Kurt

Transition

The grass was still green (tho covered in leaves)
The sun shone as bright as any summer day
A few zinnias still jeweled atop leaning stems
Marigolds and petunias remained robust
But the grounds looked austere and worried
Two dozen pots and planters were moved
Unavoidable autumnal evacuation
A hard freeze loomed and I privileged the few
The delicate and chosen to survive
Oxygenating window sills and sunlit alcoves
Harboring the hibernal hiatus with me
Outside, the fated flora would succumb
I watered them anyway

Kelly Kurt

Traumatizing (Limerick)

What's up with the pallor of white mice?
Their red eyes do not make them look nice
I am not one to blab
But it chanced in the lab
When they were all scared half to death twice

Kelly Kurt

Trees (Senryu Series)

Bark

How to give orders
Outer layer of a tree
Bite's less dire contrast

Leaves

New ones turned over
Photosynthesis workshop
Pages in a book

Apple

Deciduous pome
Technology company
My eye's favorite

Cherry

Washington's victim
Condition of classic car
Blossoms in Japan

Oak

Hard furniture wood
Sprout mightily from acorns
Makes whiskey barrels

Maple

Helicopter seeds
Fall festival of color
Tapped to make syrup

Pine

Leaves shaped like needles

Ever-present evergreen
Male and female cones

Willow

Flexible branches
Once used to make aspirin
Pendulous weepers

Kelly Kurt

Trinket

A small, handmade trinket adorns my wall
Fashioned by petite hands and large heart
Portrait of a pocket-sized girl embellishes the center
Eleven years after its creation, it still melts me
Mona Lisa smile and impish eyes
Gaze out from glittered ornament
Forward through time
Preserving my nine year old "Bean"
Everlastingly alongside the extant

Kelly Kurt

Triumph Of The Absurd (With Thanks To Sandra Feldman.) -

Great thinkers of our day, in their subjugation
Of disease, ignorance and the laws of nature
Plumb the extent of human reach
Behind the curtain of anonymity
With insufficient recompense

Peace-makers and philanthropists
The unselfish and caring attendants of humanity
Tireless and unacknowledged
Carry on in obscurity
Under our noses

Chroniclers of civilization and culture
Squeezing blood from graphite
To detail in an elevated tongue
The impressions most cannot articulate
Languish in privation and unimportance

Self-important socialites dominate the headlines
The rude, blue and witless garner the attention and wealth
Those that can't, don't, and still prosper
The shallow and mindless feed this folly
Triumph of the absurd

Kelly Kurt

Troubles (Senryu)

Boulders in rivers
Erode into smooth pebbles
Flow is unbroken

Kelly Kurt

True Enemy? (Haiku)

What is the problem?
Who is the true enemy?
Is it in fact you?

Kelly Kurt

True Story

I can't say with any certainty
When I fell asleep last night
Or what all the circumstances were
(I do recall dawn's first light)
A span of time simply disappeared
That is not unusually true
But when I returned to consciousness
I was wearing just one shoe

Kelly Kurt

True To Form (Limerick)

My head's directly above my neck
And if one should carefully inspect
I have arms on each side
So I say it with pride
I am anatomically correct

Kelly Kurt

Trust (Haiku)

Earned through honesty
Maintained by consistency
Destroyed when broken

Kelly Kurt

Truth (Senryu)

It is not a fact
Merely a soothing concept
Letting us function

Kelly Kurt

Twilight

Endless rotation nestled the sun in her western cradle
The dusk desperately embraced the surviving relics of blue
Quilted clouds subdued the waxing half moon
As twilight's first stars played peek-a-boo
A lone starling orbited, pursuing a final morsel
Now, even the wind slumbered

Kelly Kurt

Two Bees Or Not Two Bees (Limerick)

A pair of apians stung my head
Outrageous, was initially said
Their number, it narrows
'Cause with slings and arrows
I opposed them and now they are dead

Kelly Kurt

Two People (Haiku)

Two people once met
One of them was not ready
The other one was

Kelly Kurt

Umbra

Cloud cloaked night
Winds are deceased
Sounds dissolved away
Darkness has nowhere to hide
Alone is a crowd

Kelly Kurt

Unaccountable

I am not responsible
Are the stars responsible for shining?
A non-dimensional, infinite source of energy
Perturbed and inflated, expanded
Too hot and symmetrical to be but momentum
Cooled enough to form subatomic 'particles'
From them, atoms were formed
And from them, all we see
All we are
Eventually, super novae seeded space with heavier elements
Nine billion years later, the Earth coalesced
Initially hostile, uninhabitable
Molecules formed and united
Simple amino acids grew
In time, proteins and
Life
Feeding, reproducing, evolving
Single celled at first but alive
Animate
Mutations filled niches
Natural selection
Complexity increased
Nerves, spinal cords
Brains!
Every cell of which, composed of the primal, frozen energy
Set into motion with determinism
A living, preprogrammed machine
Thoughts arise autonomously
Consciousness, an emergent property
Free will, a disappointing illusion
The universe itself, able to distinguish its existence
But I
I am not to blame
No credit is due me either
Not even for these words
For I, the ego that supposes itself to exist
Doesn't

Unanimous Ailment

Stop it!
Thoughts usually are teasing
Possibilities without warranted hope
Hope isn't really a factor
Even when understood
Especially when not understood
Somehow enticing enough to consider
Weighing the differences
Probability, statistically zero
Reality is not often greeted well
So reality is not often appreciated
Likelihood, considered not
Can one afford to be caught off guard?
Preparedness is not possible
Even the relative few who can 'afford' mistakes
Cannot always survive them
Reason enough to stand beside each other
Temporary beings with a fleeting Sentience
Feeling

Kelly Kurt

Unceremonious (Limerick)

Not the best way to start wedded life
Before the cake succumbed to the knife
Prognosticated dread
When the minister said
I now mispronounce you man and wife

Kelly Kurt

Unconditional Love (Sarah's)

Though I may pull some hair out
When I'm changing her shirt
She still loves me
When I send her to bed
And her feelings are hurt
She still loves me
When I had a bad day and I'm in a bad mood
When I tell her to stay 'til she eats all her food
When I don't hear what she said and to her I seem rude
She still loves me
She unconditionally loves me

When I need to scold her
Give a harsh reprimand
She still loves me
Though I'm sure when I yell
She can't quite understand
She still loves me
When I'm busy or tired and don't give her much time
When my face looks like I just sucked on a lime
When I don't let her know I'm glad that she's mine
She still loves me
She unconditionally loves me

Kelly Kurt

Understanding

We all want an ear sometimes
Some sympathy and attention
Even if our narrative
Isn't met with comprehension
Just to be attended to
To secure a degree of cheer
A comrade who will listen
Not to reply, but just to hear
It only takes a minute
A commission undemanding
To show a friend you love him
By offering understanding

Kelly Kurt

Unexamined

Paying attention to the world is challenging enough for most
The obvious is often missed and nuances are all but lost
Paying attention to the deeper self and assiduous thought
Is even rarer still and carries a considerable cost

Kelly Kurt

Unexpected (Senryu)

I thought I was tired
Just wanted to be alone
Then a friend came by

Kelly Kurt

Unfinished? (Senryu)

When is it complete?
Poetry, paintings, thought, life
Never and always

Kelly Kurt

Unfortunate Amphibian (Limerick)

While cutting the grass down by the road
At one with nature, peacefulness flowed
An accidental mess
Had me shocked, more or less
As I mowed and bisected a toad

Kelly Kurt

Unpopular (Senryu)

Correct decision

An unfortunate result

Doesn't change the facts

Kelly Kurt

Unsent (Haiku)

Where do you go now?
So many times in the past
You arrived unsent

Kelly Kurt

Unwritten Remedy (Poets For Peace)

Politics and justice are not even a consideration
Wanton acts of unrestrained violence are focused
Radical faiths in seventh century propaganda
Instilled and inflamed as infants
Little prospect for alternatives
Born into belief, raised in collective influence
No more hate should be borne them
Then should be felt for the tsetse
Which does as it was nurtured to do
Literature ought to enhance life
Its truth and beauty should inspire harmony
Text must encourage goodwill
Ignorance overcome by Information
Legend understood as such
No book as tenet
No demand for terrorism

Kelly Kurt

Up To You

Do not call upon any god to stop evil
Do not wait for a spirit to help the poor
No idol should be responsible for our values
Supernatural intervention has never occurred
If you want peace in your world
An end to suffering and hunger
Equal rights for all
A future for your children
Anything
It is up to you
Be the bellwether
Lead by example
Heal with human love
Not allegorical supplicating

Kelly Kurt

User Interface

The mouth is a dangerous thing
When opened before any thought
Producing ill consequence
Tongue, tripping over teeth
Lips moving, evidence of lies
Our primary source of dissemination
A feeble enough tool to communicate mind's design
Without lacking instructions for its operation

Kelly Kurt

Vacuum Energy

All around us, pervading known space
Virtual particles appear and meet face-to-face
Annihilation is instant in the subatomic sea
And releases vast energy, virtually free
It's hard for this marvel to make any sense
For both vacuum energy and laymen are infinitely dense

Kelly Kurt

Valley (Haiku)

Matured among hills
Peaceful at its altitude
Indebted to time

Kelly Kurt

Values

If it wasn't illegal, would you kill someone?
If no one was looking, would you steal?
If you knew you wouldn't be caught, would you cheat
If you would never be doubted, would you lie?
We are not a perfect species
Temptations surface daily
Emotions can overpower judgement
We falter
We fail
But core values, if instilled by parents and society
Trigger remorse, teach lessons and redeem
Save us from ourselves

Kelly Kurt

Vegetables (Senryu Series)

Avocado

Alligator pear
Guacamole essential
Single seed berry

Beans

The musical fruit
A hill of them is worthless
Protein and fiber

Beets

Will stain your fingers
Main ingredient of borscht
Tangy when pickled

Carrots

Bugs Bunny loves them
Originally not orange
Dangling incentive

Corn

Mexican native
Member of grass family
Used to make whiskey

Lettuce

Common salad green
More or less crunchy water
Paper money slang

Cucumber

Paradigm of cool

Nutritionally pointless
Cylindrical gourd

Onion

Comestible bulb
Often brings tears to your eyes
Satirical rag

Potato

Edible tuber
Fueled population growth
Stays on couch all day

Tomato

Deadly nightshade kin
International sauces
That's one cute woman

Kelly Kurt

Verdict (Haiku)

The court has spoken
A five to four decision
Indecisive law

Kelly Kurt

Vermiform Verification (Limerick)

If you tend to try out new dive-bars
That serve tequila with worms, in old jars
Look at those around you
Ponder asking them to
Show you their appendectomy scars

Kelly Kurt

Vestigial Lucidity

I cannot be insane, can I?
Questioning the fact establishes rationality
Or so I've told myself
The voices I hear are my own
Taunting, teasing, intermittently inspirational
Balanced on a silver thread
One side, genius
The other, madness
Tremors threaten to topple
Which way will I fall?
How long can I remain poised?
Preserving my vestigial lucidity

Kelly Kurt

Vexation; Without Representation (Limerick)

Constituents have the right to know
Why their wishes are not status quo
This question should loom large
Who is really in charge
A leader or those who make them so

Kelly Kurt

Vexillology (Limerick)

What the heck is the hoopla and fuss?
Let's have a tête-à-tête and discuss
I don't get why they rate
Why's Switzerland so great?
Don't just tell me their flag's a big plus

Kelly Kurt

Vintner Wonderland (Limerick)

His chateau puts theirs to the fallows
This monk's being sent to Sheol's shallows
New Year's Eve, dusk to dawn
They hang Dom Perignon
On Ernest and Julio's gallows

Kelly Kurt

Virus (Tanka)

Submicroscopic
Carrier of DNA
Infecting life forms
Tho technically not alive
Influencing history

Kelly Kurt

Viscosity (Limerick)

Relatives often stifle one's growth
Inherent, with no requisite oath
Don't be led to slaughter
Blood's thicker than water
But friendship is thicker than both

Kelly Kurt

Vocabulary

Consciousness is captive
Permanently pent parietally
Words are the principal source
In trying to communicate
Do justice to the thoughts
That they dare embody
Vocabulary is the extent
Of this subjective reality

Kelly Kurt

Vocabulary (Limerick)

Try not to let poetry bore us
There's no need to croon with the chorus
You don't have to settle
Exhibit some mettle
And pick up a Roget's thesaurus

Kelly Kurt

Vodka

Mind-altering solution
Sterilized ablution
With or without dilution
Corporeal pollution
Gradual execution
Temporary solution
For a broken constitution

Kelly Kurt

Voice Of A Flower

Speaking with scent and colors, humans cannot see
The delicate petunia seduces nearby bee
My stem may be crooked, my foliage less than grand
But I have something for you, if you should choose to land
Drink amply of my nectar, share pollen from your rear
And both of our descendants may meet again next year

Kelly Kurt

Vowel Movement (Limerick)

Confused on his vacation to Nantes
When he asked to change his sullied pants
Oh you big idiot
O U is a oui bit
Of the affirmative used in France

Kelly Kurt

Wait

Waiting

Whether for news, a new day or for the sun to set

We all wait

Wait a minute!

Wait for the next operator

Wait 'til your father gets home!

Wait

I've been waiting to hear that for years

It's been worth the wait

Play the waiting game

What are you waiting for?

Don't wait for me!

Kelly Kurt

Waking

Reanimated eyes realized their function
Consciousness flickered, then flared
There I was again
Back from nonexistence
The subjective void
Where I was before I was
Where I'll go when I am no more
A clock, the first thing I saw
My mind spoke the time out loud
As if it mattered

Kelly Kurt

Waking Up

It continually amazes and amuses me
This reappearance of awareness
Oblivion rebuked once more
Five, six hours, an eternity
A twinkle of an eye
Where was I?
The 'I' that writes
The 'I' that thinks
The 'I' that experiences
How effortlessly that comes and goes
Brushing slumber's crust from my eyes
I put it out of my mind
I am here, for now

Kelly Kurt

Walk Across Leaves (Haiku)

Heels pulverize
Releasing sounds of autumn
From the fallen dead

Kelly Kurt

Walk Home From The Wake

Each step, a month
Each breath, a memory
The wind against my back
The setting sun in my eyes

Kelly Kurt

Walking On Ice

Measured steps, assessing Newton's first law
Memories of mishaps moderate my pace
Albedo amplifies the adversity
Success is simply remaining off my face

Kelly Kurt

Wanderless Wanderlust (Senryu)

Travels in the mind
Faraway places, inside
No borders in thought

Kelly Kurt

Want And Need

The central failing in the history of man
Has been his insatiable greed
Not caring enough about anybody else
To discern between want and need

Kelly Kurt

War (Haiku)

Started by rulers
Fought by idealistic youth
There are no winners

Kelly Kurt

Warden Of Eden (Limerick)

You'd think he'd have known it was coming
Was making all things that mind numbing?
It didn't take too long
Til he said they were wrong
And cursed all with eternal drumming

Kelly Kurt

Wars (Senryu Series)

Trojan War

Helen was kidnapped
Homer's Iliad relates
No condoms involved

Crusades

Christian tyranny
Killing in the name of God
Electoral campaigns?

Hundred Years' War

Feuding dynasties
One-hundred-sixteen years long
Fighting calendars?

Napoleonic Wars

Waterloo finis
Revolution extension
Hostile French pastries?

American Revolutionary War

Great Britain blew it
Tea tax provoked a party
Paul Revere tattled

American Civil War

Slavery issue
Three-quarter million left dead
The south still resents

World War One

War to end all wars

Sixteen-million people died
More wars would follow

World War Two

Truthfully global
Most lethal conflict ever
Ended with a bomb

Korean War

Divided nation
No peace treaty ever signed
Part of the Cold War

Vietnam

Classic proxy war
Domino theory farce
Winter soldier crimes

Cold War

Rancor sans fighting
Psychological warfare
Got us on the moon

War on Terror

Broad motive for war
War industry revenue
Why not strive for peace?

Kelly Kurt

Waste (Haiku)

An ant saw a crumb
It would nourish it for days
You threw it away

Kelly Kurt

Waste 2 (Haiku)

In times of plenty
Scarcity is not recalled
Thus doomed to recur

Kelly Kurt

Waste Of Space (Limerick)

Is it just half full or half empty?
That is all that most people can see
When I look at the glass
On those options I pass
It's twice as big as it needs to be

Kelly Kurt

Wasted Day (Senryu)

No accomplishments
This was written yesterday
Inertia won out

Kelly Kurt

Watched Pot (Limerick)

I enjoy getting high when I can
Of marijuana, I'm a big fan
A hit from a friend's pipe
Makes my thought process ripe
It's time legalization began

Kelly Kurt

Water (Haiku)

Each drop recycled
Countless times through the eons
Sip trilobite tears

Kelly Kurt

We Travel Alone

One third of our life is spent in the little death of sleep
Unaware, or in an altered state
Another portion too is in some form of privacy
Unaccompanied in a car, bathing, or elsewhere
The rest, it seems is shared with others
But to what degree?
We are confined to our minds
What is shared is essentially incomplete, imperfect
No way to convey an accurate sense of the inner self
On this fleeting expedition of existence
Our souls, spirits, selves, incased in flesh
Restricted to inadequate exchange with meager words
We travel alone

Kelly Kurt

Wealth (Haiku)

Transient holdings
Superficial unless shared
Squandered if hoarded

Kelly Kurt

Weapons (Senryu Series)

Bow and Arrow

Early way to kill
Hunting, war and archery
Cupid's tools of trade

Bazooka

Antitank defense
Brainchild of Robert Goddard
Bubblegum kid Joe

Cannon

Replaced catapults
Gunpowder artillery
Tchaikovsky's accent

Trebuchet

Compound siege engine
Counterweighted rock thrower
Destroys castle walls

Guns

Black powder disease
Virility replacement
Death at a distance

Nuclear Missile

Death from the heavens
Overkill epitomized
Deterrent my ass

Tank

Armored vehicle

Offensive automobile
Where goldfish are kept

Torpedo

Submarine missile
James Farragut's damnation
To sink an idea

Kelly Kurt

Weapons Plague

The CDC tracks epidemics
They know what damage is done
The statistics can be upsetting
And worry most everyone
But the sum of deaths and injuries
A figure that often stuns
Is not the consequence of disease
But the aftermath of guns

Kelly Kurt

Weather (Senryu Series)

Rain

Too much or little
Liquid precipitation
Generous giving

Snow

Winter covering
Individual designs
Cocaine's white powder

Thunder

Resounding rumble
Superheated atmosphere
Don't try to steal mine

Lightning

Zeus' armaments
Electrostatic discharge
Speedier when greased

Tornadoes

Supercell vortex
Destructive but beautiful
Strike in the alley

Hurricane

Carter's apt nickname
Severe tropical tempest
Poke it in the eye

Heat Waves

Excessively hot

Global warming consequence
Burning in my heart

Cold Snaps

Break out the parkas
Major temperature drop
Citrus crops damaged

Drought

Prolonged rainlessness
Consequence of writer's block
Fueled the dust bowl

Kelly Kurt

Wedding Day

Months of planning
Weeks of preparation
Anxiety, nervousness. Fear?
The couple has help
Maybe more than they want
Twenty chiefs, few Indians
The morning is busy
Decorating, cooking, setting up
People start to arrive
The church and the yard are teeming
The bell rings
Everyone gathers in the chapel
The piano softly plays
As the tension mounts
Two by two, the attendants promenade
The groom takes his place
Waiting for the highpoint
His bride
Escorted down the aisle
All eyes on her
Many are misty
The rites are performed
As they have been for ages
Rings are exchanged
Vows are pledged
The pronouncement is made
Kiss the bride
A roar from the crowd erupts
Smiles out-ring the caroling bells
Let no man bring asunder
Now comes the party
Celebration, Merriment, unity
Music, dancing, food and drink
The newlyweds slip away
But the party persists
Friends and family carouse
Three A.M. and all, finally, falls silent
The day
The wonderful, long anticipated day

Is over

Kelly Kurt

Whales (Senryu Series)

Scrimshaw

Ivory carving
Engraved in teeth and bones
(After they are dead)

Blubber

Thick layer of fat
Rendered into oil for lamps
For this, millions died

Flukes

Provide propulsion
Distinctive as fingerprints
A coincidence?

Breaching

Coming up for air
Multiple social motives
Like just having fun

Ambergris

Gray waxy substance
Intestinal secretion
Perfume fixative

Plankton

Base of the food chain
Baleen whale appetizers
Sponge Bob's nemesis

Kelly Kurt

What Are My Odds? (Limerick)

No matter one's fervent volition
It happens without our permission
We'll by no means survive
Just being alive
Is a wholly fatal condition

Kelly Kurt

What Else? (Haiku)

Shiver in the cold
Perspire in the tropic heat
What else should you do?

Kelly Kurt

What I Should Have Said

"You look young, for your age."

"How old do you think I am? "

"Would you like some help with that? "

"I'm not an invalid, you know! "

"I thought you'd like to read this."

"I already did."

"Have a nice day."

"Fat chance! "

What I should have said

"Thank you."

Kelly Kurt

What Is The Difference?

You can tell

C'mon!

Does this not smell of deceit?

Uninformed, misinformed?

Why else the disproportion?

Who can work more hard?

Who can be worth a thousand times more?

Answer me!

Kelly Kurt

What It Isn'T

What is reality?
It may be simpler
To say what it isn't
It isn't a truth
It isn't experience
It isn't certainty
It isn't perfection
It isn't hope
It isn't fundamental
Or physical
Or material
It isn't actual
Or factual
It isn't what it is
It is what it isn't

Kelly Kurt

What She Must Think (Limerick)

Being considered's the Holy Grail
My feminine side is where I fail
Cause I hold a man card
It's incredibly hard
To think about me as a female

Kelly Kurt

What The? (Limerick)

If this first line ends with the word truck
Be prepared by the finish to duck
Because all of the time
The last sentence must rhyme
But I don't think that I'll push my luck

Kelly Kurt

Whatever The Opposite Of An Ode Is; To Flies

The door was left open for hours
People were in and out all day
Now, in the supposed sanctuary of my room
Flies!
Butt-loads of flies
Thousands of cubic feet of air space
And they bombard my ears
Countless surfaces on which to land
But exposed skin is their preference
Alighting on my face in contempt
They crawl to the corner of my mouth
Wriggling across my forearm hair
Tingles and itches, belying their stature
Pinging off the window panes
Just inches above the opening to freedom
They drone furiously in vain
A hasty gulp from my coffee cup
Finds an ill-fated one halfway down my throat
I am vexed
I will not kill them
I probably couldn't get half of them anyway
Patience is a virtue (probably not for flies though)
With an average lifespan of twenty-eight days
And plenty of less annoying spiders around
Hiding in wait for a meal
All I have to do is wait til September
And keep the door closed

Kelly Kurt

What's In A Name? (Limerick)

Eileen Dover could not touch her toes
And that was not the end of her woes
Her little brother, Ben
Would make fun of her when
She struck such an inelegant pose

Kelly Kurt

When Does It End?

One family, more wealthy than half a country
Five dozen people, richer than half of the world
What is wealth, other than power?
What is power, but unmitigated greed?
For its sake alone
Never satiated
The numbers are narrowing
They will continue to constrict
Eventually to a few, perhaps one
One overlord
One with all
All with none
For what?

Kelly Kurt

When I Die, Remember This Alone

I lived my life with honor, loyalty and openness
I made good friends and shared my smile
I accomplished much and had failures
I worked hard and goofed off
I reveled in my youth and enjoyed the wisdom of age
I lost
I won
But when I die, remember this alone
I loved you

Kelly Kurt

When I Was A Child

I thought about the future
As well as I could then
Flying cars and moon bases
All loving, brother men
In fifty years, all would change
The world a peaceful place
No bitterness or hatred
A united human race

Maybe my children's children
Will Figure out this mess
So Humankind can enjoy
World togetherness

Kelly Kurt

When Is It Done

The creative process is not set in stone
From painting to composing
From writing to choreography
And everything in-between

Some may self-impose rules
Establish empirical imperatives
Measure and assess merit
By arbitrary and subjective means

But art is art
Unquantifiable
Personal
More felt than seen or heard

My only question is
When is it done?
When will one more brush-stroke
Be one too many?
When will an additional note
Detract from whole symphony?
Can adding or changing a single word
Ruin a poem
Or elevate it to a masterpiece?
How does the artist know?
When is it done?

Kelly Kurt

When?

When did you last feel sorrow?
When did you last feel joy?
When did you last have an urge
To love or to destroy?
When did you last own a sunset?
When did you last feel pain?
When did you last feel at all?
When will you feel again?
Is when just a matter of time?
Or is when not a matter at all?
Before you can feel, you must live
Before you can walk you must crawl

Kelly Kurt

Where Do You Go Now? 17 Haiku Series

Where do you go now?
Do you have any options?
Many people don't

Where do you go now?
Change is seldom an option
But you can decide

Where do you go now?
If when is the main factor
It's never too late

Where do you go now?
It depends on where you are
A door works both ways

Where do you go now?
So many times in the past
You arrived unspent

Where do you go now?
Must you move on from this place
Or be left behind

Where do you go now?
Remember where you have been
And take it with you

Where do you go now?
The first time that this matters
Will test all the rest

Where do you go now?
It may be just a small bend
That changes a course

Where do you go now?
Is it truly time to leave?
Have you finished here?

Where do you go now?
Even the oldest of men
Can find something new

Where do you go now?
I've asked the same of myself
Each time brought wonders

Where do you go now?
Is there something that you seek?
Do you have it now?

Where do you go now?
In the magic of your dreams
No path is denied

Where do you go now?
Are you so comfortable
That you won't seek more?

Where do you go now?
The cloud considers this not
And finds its way still

Where do you go now?
The acorn with this choice says
"Undoubtedly, up! "

Kelly Kurt

Where's The Beef?

After Paris, the outrage was strident
Media coverage, nonstop
Brussels, on everyone's lips
Je suis Charlie
Lahore...Ignore
A cowardly, horrific act of terrorism
Dozens massacred
Hundreds wounded
Crickets

Kelly Kurt

Whimper

How much longer?
It has to end sometime
That is foregone
Waiting is the hard part
The stage has been set
It won't be a shock
Self-fulfilling?
It might need a hand
Not in a bang
But in a.....

Kelly Kurt

Whisper (Haiku)

Secretive sermon
Breathed into awaiting ear
Portending scandal

Kelly Kurt

Whistling Dixie (Limerick)

Two strange relatives of Robert E.
Twisted branches of the family tree
One took things verbatim
One's so blest, we hate him
Named Literal and Effortless Lee

Kelly Kurt

Whistling Wind

The storm had passed but left mementos
(Storms don't like to be forgotten)
Branches and leaves speckled the ground
Lanky plants were bent and broken
Water filled every hollow and depression
And the air was honey thick
Not the most thoughtful souvenirs
But trailing the tempest like a boat's wake
Was a stiff and gusting wind
Whistling through the trees and around corners
A cheerful refrain that seemed to say
"This is for all your trouble"

Kelly Kurt

Who Am I?

Who am I?

What am I?

An organism?

An anachronism?

A fantasy?

A completely insane combination of quarks, atoms, cells
And ever increasingly complicated arrangements of matter

Giving way to a sense of self?

A piece of a whole?

An independent entity?

A brief whisper?

An Omni temporal nonpareil?

Did I emerge from a reality that I may never comprehend?

Did reality spring forth from me?

To ask the question may be a clue

But not an answer

If an answer was presented, would I understand?

I don't seek a purpose

That seems presumptuous

Just

Who am I?

Kelly Kurt

Who Would Have Thought?

Yesterday, at any time
Little foreshadowing
Apparent future, reckoned
Present, unpredicted
Past, a complicated recollection
I know too much
It is horrifying

Kelly Kurt

Whole Pieces

When I look at myself, introspectively
At first I see the entirety
Upon a deeper, microscopic exam
I see the pieces of who I am
Each fragment is a discrete totality
Tho insular in locality
The father, the thinker, the ten year old lad
Poet, loner, the good and the bad
Jointly, these pieces do the best that they can
To make a whole and singular man

Kelly Kurt

Whoops! (Limerick)

A large stone into the air I hurled
Above the pristine ground it whirled
Upon falling back down
My friend said, with a frown
'Look, Kelly, you dented the world.'

Kelly Kurt

Why (Haiku)

Each truth spurs questions
Every question has its start
Nothing less than why□

Kelly Kurt

Why Contact A Flea?

Why haven't we been contacted?
Perhaps it is just that arrogance
We may well have been noticed
Our resources make here attractive
However, this planet is infested
With us
To a civilization advanced enough
To become aware of our presence
We may be as fleas
If somehow you could converse with a flea
What would you talk about?
The flea's interpretation of existence
Has to be wildly unfamiliar to us
We could not learn anything of value
Why would we waste our time?
We are a wasteful, destructive species
War-like, divisive, childish, self-indulgent
We pollute our world
Litter space with debris
And electromagnetic rubbish
Why haven't we been contacted?
Why contact a flea?
Especially a barbaric one

Kelly Kurt

Wide Eyes

Over the centuries
Successive generations of youths
Have taken small steps
Improving society
Until they too were jaded
Becoming the older generation
Either complacent or assimilated
Tired of being marginalized
Outside the accepted
Cumulative progress tenuously stands
Waiting for the next generation
To add their thoughts, voices, actions
To the rational movement
Until the old, the misguided
The inequitable and impeding
Fade into the ignominy of history

Kelly Kurt

Widower?

Technically, I'm a divorcé
Papers were signed and she's gone away
The woman I knew, I know no more
Even before she walked out the door
I learned to endure, and mourned the loss
Retained the pleasant, released the dross
Never again, my love to show her
For I'm a soi-disant widower

Kelly Kurt

Wigged Out (Limerick)

William looks quite different today
The result of his spouse's outlay
His wife ran up some debt
To the bald man's regret
And that means she now has Bill's toupee

Kelly Kurt

Will Power (Haiku)

Resolve means nothing
If you resist everything
Except temptation

Kelly Kurt

Wind (Haiku)

Invisible force
Made known by the kites of spring
And tousled coiffures

Kelly Kurt

Wind 2 (Haiku)

Unseen molecules
Flowing between isobars
Making the leaves dance

Kelly Kurt

Wind Chill

Eleven days ago, short sleeves, in the seventies
Sunshine and sweat while raking
Grass still green, marigolds a fiery orange
Moon lit night, comfortable to explore
Today's trip to take out trash
Anything but routine
Crusty snow crunches and collapses
Swallowing ankles with a scrape
Northwest wind divests thermal layers
Single digits seem sub-zero
Exposed skin blushes blue
Brrrr!

Kelly Kurt

Window (Tanka)

Transparent divide
Tempering callous stone walls
Allocating light
Diurnal diorama
Empty picture frame at night

Kelly Kurt

Winter (Senryu Series)

Blizzard

Whiteout conditions
Lake effect inundation
Dairy queen delight

Hot Chocolate

Sugary cocoa
Jacuzzi for marshmallows
Aztec concoction

Ice Fishing

Subzero angling
Specialty of Polar bears
All I caught was cold

Boots

Dry toes are vital
Ski Bunny fashion statement
Carpet mud trackers

Gloves

Five fingered mittens
Beware when they're taken off
Gauntlet to be thrown

Sledding

Flexible flyer
A piece of cardboard will do
Gliding over snow

Snowman

Carrot nosed creature

Anthropomorphic sculpture
Ephemeral male

Kelly Kurt

Winter Air (Haiku)

Cold, dense and heavy
Little room for moisture
Thirsty skin itches

Kelly Kurt

Winter Solstice (Haiku)

Afternoon darkness
Heat still wanes while hope waxes
Three months until spring

Kelly Kurt

Wisdom (Haiku)

Perception through age
Experience's prime gift
That you know nothing

Kelly Kurt

Wishes Made Without Thought

Money would have no value
Relationships would all be pretense
Accountability would be trivial
Success would be a mirage
We would all be wealthy, young, slim and guiltless
No one left to plow the fields or clean the streets
A world of boring uniformity
No sense of achievement
No motivation, dignity or real satisfaction
If all wishes were to come true
Selfish or selfless, without thought
Nothing would be meaningful
Hope and dream to your hearts content
But wish carefully

Kelly Kurt

Wistful Wakening.

Once in a while, when I awake
Before my eyes open and focus
Before the clarity of consciousness congeals
The bed beneath me is omnitemporal
I am not certain when I am
Am I waking in my childhood bed?
Will my mother's voice ring out?
Am I rousing in my marital bed?
Will six children playfully jump in?
What day is it? What year is it?
Where am I?
One or two seconds
Awareness returns
Oh yeah, I remember now

Kelly Kurt

Wood (Tanka)

Formidable pine
Dominating the forest
Ancient and poised
Now frames the house of the man
Who selfishly cut it down

Kelly Kurt

Word Salad

Dice up some metaphors
Sprinkle with copious adjectives
Douse with a suspension of symbolism
Toss until all is covered
Garnish with rhyme
Serve with a poetic wine
Consume daily for optimal health

Kelly Kurt

Words

I write

It is simply a thing I do

Language is a breakthrough

Communal, it is our advantage

Individually, it awakens

Style, rules: unimportant

Message, timeless

Who will be the next Shakespeare?

Who will steer tomorrow?

Tomorrow is a word

Use words

Kelly Kurt

Words (Haiku)

A kind, knowing look
Words you have never spoken
But needed to hear

Kelly Kurt

Words (Senryu Series)

Euphemism

When you can't say *@%\$
Socially acceptable
Terms have to suffice

Thesaurus

A writer's right hand
Not a jargon dinosaur
Synonym finder

Oxymoron

Contradictory
Incongruous concurrence
Happily married?

Spoonerism

A twist of the tongue
Simultaneous sound swap
Mappily harried?

Antonym

Opposite meaning
Most words do not have any
Especially nouns

Onomatopoeia

The buzz of a bee
Sounds like the thing it describes
Comic book staple

Kelly Kurt

World Flag

So many banners flutter
Around this fractured sphere
And `neath every one of them
Most people hold them dear
They call themselves patriots
Oh, such a tortured word
It blinds the populations
Xenophobia is spurred
What will it take to unify
So that we all may brag
That every soul upon this Earth
Stands under one world flag

Kelly Kurt

World Trip (Senryu Series)

Africa

Multiple climates
Cradle of humanity
Wildlife spectacle

Antarctica

A fragile frontier
Monochrome geography
Penguins' paradise

Asia

Population peak
Cultural diversity
Eastern hemisphere

Australia

The land down under
Marsupial Motherland
Island continent

Europe

Soaring cathedrals
Art and music history
Tourists' attraction

North America

Three major countries
Consuming more than their share
Unequalled freedoms

South America

Andes, Amazon

Disappearing rainforests
Catholic stronghold

Kelly Kurt

Worry

As far as emotions go, the most counterproductive
Self-defeating and pointless
What will be, will either be, or can be altered
But not through insipid and ulcerative anxiety
Concern is defensible if acted upon with preparation
Worry is lazy, pusillanimous and foolish
Put that nervous energy into an affirmative
Let worry, worry about its self

Kelly Kurt

Worth Of The Wait (Limerick)

My life holds few anticipations
No engagements or posh vacations
Oh for something to do
I could look forward to
So that I could have some impatience

Kelly Kurt

Wrecked Him?

Their once was a man named Bob Tyldum
Who ate so much fiber it filled him
His doctor checked him
Found a clogged rectum
Just wrecked him! ? Hell, it nearly killed him

Kelly Kurt

Write What You 'Know'?

With pen in hand and heart in tow
I set out to write a poem□
The caveat, write what you know
Pared my options down to none
What can be known, cannot be truth
And the truth I must defend
'Tho wise and being long in tooth
This elegy must now end

Kelly Kurt

Writers Block (Limerick)

When I think of the time that I've spent
Trying to put to verse what I've meant
With so little success
And ensuing distress
I may give up poetry for lent

Kelly Kurt

Wrong Career Path (Limerick)

Count Dracula became a new hire
For the Eureka vacuum empire
But walking door to door
In daylight is a chore
It really sucks to be a vampire

Kelly Kurt

X

An interesting letter still in use today
In xylophone, it could be replaced with a Z
In next, the letters KS could be substituted
It is the Roman numeral representing ten
And has many other applications as a truncation
X-rated, X-large, X-factor, X-ray, RR Xing
Generation-X, X marks the spot
Commonly applied to cross something out
Or as an ersatz signature
The multiplication sign and variable symbol in math
Representing kisses and the female chromosome
But this is not an ode to the 24th letter
No, nothing quite so venerable
I just scanned my collective works
And found, to my consternation
That I don't have any poem titles
Starting with the letter, X
Now I do

Kelly Kurt

Xmas (Senryu)

Third day of winter
Excuse to develop debt
And act with kindness

Kelly Kurt

Y, Not (Limerick)

Geneticists try to sell the tale
That sex is determined by the male
'Twere that really the case
Lustful men wouldn't face
Rejection, or twenty years in jail

Kelly Kurt

Yawn (Tanka)

Contagious gaping

Brain cooling mechanism?

Common excuses

Stress, fatigue and sleepiness

Are you all doing it yet?

Kelly Kurt

Yearbook Picture

A second here, a moment there
It all adds up
Mercilessly, tirelessly, endlessly
Discrete fractions, blurred chunks

Mirrors are lenient, indulgent
Daily glances obscure with familiarity
Twenty-four hour variations, negligible
Silver backed silica sycophant

Photographs stand pitiless, exacting
Hark back to idyllic days
While taunting with indifference
Yes! You have become old

Kelly Kurt

Yes

What a delightful word
Music to the suppliant's ears
The most favored of ripostes
Unless the question is
Am I dying?

Kelly Kurt

Yesterday (Haiku)

Recorded in books
Or chronicled in the brain
A subjective ghost

Kelly Kurt

You Are What You Eat

In the beginning, art imitated life
Shells festooned necklaces
Paintings of faunae adorned cave walls
Great masters chiseled the human form
Inspired composers brought metaphorical life
To brass, wood and strings
Capturing essence orchestrally
Popular culture has turned the tides
Movies and music sway the zeitgeist
Photoshopped females feed the favored image
To a parroting public
Self-expression, an illusion
Art, directing ethos
Fabrications, fashioning the masses
Reproductions
Knockoffs
With no archetype

Kelly Kurt

You Had Your Turn

Looking out from a window on the second floor
She sees two twenty-somethings
Sitting on a bench
Holding hands
Staring into each other's eyes
In the park across the street
A group of ten year olds
Run, tumble and laugh
As two mothers push their babies in strollers
While jogging on a bike path
A quick wave to them goes unnoticed
She clutches her cane, closes the blinds and shuffles to her easy chair
The TV, still on from last night
Is loud enough to be heard from the street
She switches channels a dozen times
And settles on an old, black and white movie
A knock on the door perks her up
Fumbling with five different locks and a chain
She finally gets the door open
A young delivery man, wearing shorts and a cap
Hands her a package
Two more boxes lie next to her door
Dropped off without a receipt
As she signs for her parcel, she tries to initiate small talk
The man quickly thanks her, bids her a good day and leaves
The neighbor across the hall opens his door to leave
But seeing the seventy-six year old
Still watching as the delivery man
Practically sprints down the stairs
Slams the door shut and listens for her to do the same
The old woman takes her packages inside
And puts them in a corner
Where dozens of others are piled
She sits back down
Picks up the phone receiver to make sure it's working
And watches the movie
In the last scene, a young singer says to the veteran chanteuse
"You had your turn! "
With a heavy sigh

The old woman murmurs
"So did I."
And expires

Kelly Kurt

You Have The Right To Remain.....

The B in numb, the E in Dome
Knob's K found a mortgage free home
Mnemonic has a useless M
Pneumatic P's on G in phlegm
Science does not require a C
Handsome's dashing without D
Why is there an H in what?
Knock kneed K knows it's in a rut
The L in talk can take a walk
And the S in aisle is poppycock
U is not needed for a guess
Who the hell created this mess?

Kelly Kurt

You Oughta Know (Limerick)

The erudite can seem pretentious
But they've done the work in the trenches
Facts are more than just views
So you shouldn't confuse
Being right, with being contentious

Kelly Kurt

Young Love

Hormones control the body and mind
Myelin sheath incompleteness affects judgement
Infinite knowledge and ability delude
"Forever it will last!" they exclaim
"This is genuine, true love." Comes the proclamation
(Having never suffered this before)
The idiocy commences in earnest
A learning experience?

Kelly Kurt

Your Song

Your song cannot be written wrong
It has a set beginning
Strummed with a power chord
The notes write themselves in your pulse
Each verse an orchestral masterwork
Sung by creation, in synchrony
Recorded by the seasons
And heard by God

Kelly Kurt

Your Soul Was Meant To Be (For My Son)

Nineteen years ago□
At the tender age of six
Seized by insurmountable Odds
Ravaged inside and out
Unrecognizable
Last rights given
You lived!
Still, the prognosis was brain death, life support, amputation
You walked out of the hospital making jokes
A young man now
College graduate
Physical specimen
Friend to scores
Giver of joy
Exemplar for life and meaning
Your soul was meant to be

Kelly Kurt

Youth

With no definitive upper boundary
We all struggle to maintain it
The young have no idea what they possess
Til they too seek to retain it

Kelly Kurt

Zero

Multiply it by any number
As large as you please
As often as you care
The answer is nothing

Kelly Kurt

Zero Point

Are there absolute reference frames?
The speed of light seems immutable
Constant, universal
186,282 miles per second
Compared to what?
An observer?
We are all moving at different rates
No center of space
No up or down
What makes something good, better, best?
Bad, worse, worst?
Does happiness come quantized?
How about love?
When are you no longer poor?
When are you considered rich?
Are there fundamental baselines?
It's all in your head
It's all in your head

Kelly Kurt

Zoos (Haiku)

Protect and preserve
Earth's most endangered creatures
Against their captors

Kelly Kurt