

Poetry Series

Gabriel SimpsonLaw
- poems -

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Gabriel SimpsonLaw(March 1960)

A good man in a bad place.

Write as a vent, as a way to challenge myself and see my shortcomings....

Me.....

Man, look like a biker (Use your imagination)Yup nearly but more scary.....

Ride a big ol' Harley, work hard for a living.

Avid reader pretty much all genres, love all kinds of music, all kinds of art.

Vegetarian, Don't have a god but I'm open to offers.

And Finally

Strange yet, how we dangle from the slightest shred of hope
Those flimsy gossamer wisps that could not possibly support us
We who love yet are not loved by return
We whose sense deserts us

'Twas ever thus as I remember, ever thus as I recall
Never trust in something so slender as forlorn hope or surely fall
And landing hard across dark valleys
Learn nothing of your ways at all

Those of you that think you aid us by leaving us by small degrees
Throwing ever smaller punches, occasional soft words as these
"I still love you" "maybe" "someday"
Then disappear into the trees

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

And You Are Gone Forever

Foresworn am I to ever view your love once swift declared to me
For false - it was and so shall be my abjuration now of thee
In consequence of what prevailed (and all that's left of no avail)
My love for you will surely pale - all value and advantage fail
And you are gone forever

Indignant have I since become whilst sipping at some bitter wine
Cold introspection has revealed a cancerous killing heart malign
For surely it is simply seen that what remains is weak and mean
When side by side compared obscene for all is lost I thought between
And you are gone forever

In deepest contemplation shall I now examine all that was
The vestige relics of the past will haunt me all my days because
No future light can I descry, all joy and comfort I deny
And likely without hope will I ensure this is our last goodbye
And you are gone forever

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Barn Find

Hard monument to bloody days
Darkly in the shadows lies
Hidden here from grateful gaze
Of nation she had come to save

Thousands of her brothers fell
Shredded in the teeth of hell
To breathe their last and still were made
Unless disturb'ed by the waves

To purchase freedom with their blood
(Precious then more precious now)
They came across the channel's flood
And with life's source the sand endowed

Save she who made it 'cross that sand
On, on to tangled hinterland
And there abandoned wounded lay
Enshrouded in a farm's decay

Until unto my sight she yields
On pilgrimage to foreign fields
Her ghost remains for all to see
Beyond the beach at Normandy

Friend, think now on the years to come
When you are old and I am gone
Will monuments like these be found
At edge of some far Persian town?

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Beachcombing

It's never easy, this losing all you value thing
But you just don't see it coming in that way
Unguarded we stand as the waves boil down upon us
And shatter every atom in their spray

Then churning in and sucking out as they are like to do
They spit us like some flotsam on the strand
In among the driftwood, the bladder-wrack and mussel shells
The green glass smooth worn by the sea and sand

There we lay in little bits 'til nature takes its course
And binds us bone to sinew one more time
Then mother helps to tie our shoes and gently prods us forward
'til standing on the beach there is a line

Of tired souls in sunglasses that hide our hopeless eyes
As we search for something secret in the sand
Perhaps for one another then in triumph we could leave
Wrapped tight in our embraces for the land

But like as not we'll stoop about beside the foaming ocean
In vainest hope that something may appear
To ease the constant nagging pain and longing that is caused
By a life spent seeking pirate treasure here

And those of you that are not skilled in sifting through the grains
Through telescopes, coin operated, see
We duffel coated denizens occasionally crushed
Beachcombing isn't what it used to be

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Book Of Dreams

As morning lays her hands upon my sill
Ethereal threads of night I cling to still
And holding as they whisper from my mind
The revenant trace of you they leave behind

I keep a tiny volume by my cot
That night's fair visions will not be forgot
Thick, torpid as I struggle to recall
To scribe the sad minutia of it all

How delicately did your face appear?
How silvery the traces of those tears?
Exactly which words did you use to say
That you cannot be here throughout the day?

Cruel Morpheus releases me each dawn
To punish me, to make me soldier on
To daily suffer under his regime
So I write about you in my book of dreams

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Child, Slumber On

Child, slumber on while the man in the moon beams down upon us
Dream - sleeping in my sorry arms as I now guard against night's gloom
Breathe precious babe; breathe in daddy's ear forever
For there is nothing so dear to me on earth as this single sound within your room

Peace; peace be all around you. Angels surround and draw your heavenly swords
Face outward; keep your faithful watch upon this my daughter
Who means more to me than your own most powerful Lord
And gladly will I stand his punishment if I offend

But for now, this night, I pray - defend!

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Conspiracy Theory

Cameras in the air and chips in what you're buying
Compulsory ID to prove that you're not lying
For your own piece of mind is what they'll say I betcha
Just cos' you're not paranoid
Don't mean they aint out to getcha

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Fix Ever Thine Eyes

Fix ever thine eyes on the far and dark horizon
Look not to the verges of thy path for there lays only diversion
Step lightly, and glad be thine heart that your path is now before thee
Fear nought, for the shield you bear is my love
The spear you heft, your dazzling mind
Sharper still than e'en heaven's blades, forg'ed for angels
And if love protect you and intelligence defend
Then traveller, you are arm'ed well for your journey
Look up! The horizon brightens!

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Golf Course Berlin

Make a fortress of the golf course
With eighteen feet high walls
And at each corner towers build
Send Dobermans abroad!

Oh razor-wire the sixteenth hole
And booby-trap the green
Turn bunkers into bunkers
String claymores in-between

Lay mines about the fairways
Dig trenches round the course
Machine-gun mounted golf carts
For the Quick Reaction Force

“And we can send the kids to school
In columns 4X4
They’ll think it fun the U.N. run
A school-run corridor”

Blue helmeted the escorts
Reminders of Berlin
All this to keep the riff-raff out
Or the other fuckers in

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Here In Lordly Comfort Gathered (A Marriage)

Here in lordly comfort gathered, possess'ed now of joyful mind
Sheltered from the blasts of winter, let all here in hope combine
For this man and woman dear, esteem'ed, in affection held
As they journey forth in concert of their mutual love compelled

Daughter of this noble island, son of that great southern land
Forward now in love supporting to the future fate hath planned
May your path roll out before you, gentle through the trees to curl
View you now a bounteous garden rare as the flying years unfurl

Let not storm nor man affect thee, guard against exterior force
Countenance no interference be it subtle planned or coarse
But keep a peaceful fortress round you, bright her light and strong her walls
Harried not by life's afflictions, fast, secure within its halls

We may all in terms of fortune hard consider what we gain
Love as only love is given during this our mortal reign
Value this above all other, things possessed are mean indeed
Things possessed do not return love, love and freedom be your creed

To E & N, all love

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

How Did I Wound Thee?

Answer me this -
How did I wound thee?
Describe to me the way
In which I suffered you to suffer

For I would like lightning move to defend thee now
Even as you retrieve your icy dagger sucking from my heart
Whilst blood to your elbows runs and mine own tears like opals fall
To shatter hail like upon this wretched ground

Tell me friend
What crime of thought, action, or speech
Did I upon you cast?

For never did a man love so well as I loved nor more true
So that should the wrath of all the world descend upon you as arrows
From a battled sky I should still bodily be your buckler
To soak up as an oaken shield their keen and barb'ed points

Enlighten my poor mind
Enrich me with your thoughts
Friend, do I not deserve to know
The sorrow I have wrought

Now dimly by mine eyes perceived your retreat from this dark field
Leave not before I comprehend the wound that would not heal
As I have given all I had and never more shall gain
I pray thee lay to rest this single question that remains -

How did I wound thee?

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

I Give No Thought

I can no longer hear music
You stole that from me
The sunset never will I view again
You took it with you

I will write no more for you
I will not grace your memory
With workings for posterity
I will give no more to you

I will give no thought to you
The void that you created is ready filled
With pity and self loathing
And time's own sand

As bright, hard stars that tease with their light and distance
You are beyond my reach - 'tis by your own design
You think of me not
I will not think of you

The breath of heaven that once I knew
Familiar as my mirrored face
Is now forever lost to me
Gone in hand with your good grace

I give no thought to you

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

I Now Wish Entire For You All That I May Never Have

I now wish entire for you all that I may never have
That you will love and so be loved
That your dear heart be wholly glad

I now pray that you will never suffer pain as once you did
That all the days left unto to you
Are filled with brightness – darkness hid

I now hope that as you sally forth upon the future's prow
All your dreams rise up before you
And contentment they endow

I now dream for you a family stretching out in further time
Peace surround you, God protect you
And in all, Pilgrim, life sublime

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Let Us Both Now Try To Gather All The Shards Which Are Undone

Let us both now try to gather all the shards which are undone
Put the caustic past behind us with thought to when we were as one
See the poisoned clouds above us dissipate into the night
Stand with me inside the circle of God's all enfolding light

Bury deep the bitterness within a barrow built of pain
No marker let the barrow bear lest we should visit here again
Ahead though sadness oft may follow, keep this path we both shall blaze
Fearless we may walk together 'til the ending of our days

And in quieter times remember all that forged us - made us man
All that challenged or beset us - tried to snare us as we ran
Stronger then we held together, stronger now as we achieve
All that we once dreamed together, then life's rewards shall we receive

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Mean Game

So here it all is; this is what it's brought me to
I'm sleeping on hard floors but not with you
My clothes need washing and I do too
Shit, but the Devil plays a mean game

Spent my worthless f&%kin' life baby rolling on
You once compared it to a Tom Waits song
Down, out and busted all the way along
Shit, but the Devil plays a mean game

Columbian, Bolivian and Mexican booze
Tempting as a virgin with nothing to lose
Sick in the morning on my blue suede shoes
Shit, don't the Devil play a mean game

Would've chewed my right arm off to be out of those beds
Giv'n a months money to a whore instead
At least her kids would appreciate the bread
Mmmmm, the Devil, gotta love him

Fortune and the gods got nothing on me
I'd fight every one of them, then baby you'd see
I wasn't half the man you'd cracked me up to be
Shit, but the Devil plays a mean, mean game

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Oh Heart, Though Not About Her

I wish you'd seen the man in me
And not the one you hoped I'd be
The love that I'd have freely given
Before this heart was sorely riven

Buried, tamped beneath all clay
And guarded there until you say
"Step forth dead heart, leave now your tomb
Before mine eyes you must assume

The guise that you so oft have worn
Before you were so cruelly torn
And then reveal to me, oh heart
The love you never did impart"

Too late the invocation comes
The sentiment on dead ears falls
Too late to gather what is gone
Too late to alter what now is done

Feel you not sorrow now
Nor pity this indigent vessel
For all life has it's time
And the heart, like life, has it's.

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

One More Lullaby

Only dogs are out on the streets
See there's no-one else here but me
All the bars are closed, so I'll follow my nose
To the hotel I'm still calling home

Where the man on the night desk is a friend
To ev'ry broken heart on the mend
Still he looks so tired ev'ry time I enquire
Is there a message for me from a friend?

So I'll sing for you
One more lullaby
I'll sing for you, that crazy old song
Yes I'll sing for you one more lullaby
Though it always came out wrong

It's a long, long road to your door
And I wonder who sleeps on your floor now
Hell I'd come straight home
And I'd promise to roam no more

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

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Parting With Dignity

And so my love has left me now as sure I knew she must
Gone toward her future in a swirling haze of dust
I'm sure that she once loved me true though she'd hardened as of late
She needed space, she wanted time, she had to seek her fate

And I am left no self respect, for I begged her not to go
On my knees I crawled to her for sure I loved her so
I love her still, the tears I weep are private unto me
But still they are an awful slight upon my dignity

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Rye (Cinque Port-Sank Port)

When vigorous the north wind blows across the steppe as far as Kent
Victorious his power shows in falling tiles and trees full bent
Then cold I wander to the line where saxon viewed the sea at will
And over marshy distance gaze toward red citadel on hill

Where streets slide steep and cobbled hard fast tumble down to inland port
And fort and gate and church and yard perch high above as if in thought
Of bounteous days when sails drew near to trade for wool and local ware
Where now the weekend coxwains steer their tiny boats with little care

The Mermaid's comfort for the body, Saint Mary's comfort for the soul
The Landgate and the Ypres Tower were raised here to defend the whole
In commerce was her fortune made then lost again in nature's course
In silt for miles once maritime marooned inland by Triton's force

Ancient are the shepherd's stories tales of smugglers, sailors gone
In her splendour still enduring when her citizens are done
And though small majestic glory proud imposing on the land
Whether red in summers sunlight - rosey white in winters hand

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Silence Impish Ravening Crows

Silence impish ravening crows
Though darkling night incarcerate grows
Leave this ground, oh fly now! Flee!
Your treacherous bills no more to harry me

Eternal ease foreshadowed by your bitter reign
Not rich enough reward for me to suffer pain
Upon those beloved to me though I'd once thought it so
Ere I came to my senses not so long ago

Pure azure the heavens still verdant the earth
Bright the sun's rising each day at its birth
Sweeter birds sing and the flower still grows
So silence foul carrion ravening crows

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Softer Now The Shadows Are

Softer now the shadows are as evening steals across the ground
And darkness her oily mantle drapes the distant hills without a sound
Come now, come my own sweet love and walk with me some little time
Spend with me these secret moments, and here on mossy bank recline

Brighter now the stars revealed, hard their edges are perceived
Shards of glass dance on the river - grateful river, light receives
Come now, come my heart's commander, brush your lips against my ear
And once more in love's sweet comfort tell me all I dream to hear

Darker now as clouds unfolding roil above and foil all light
Interrupting Luna's beams - incarcerating all in night
Where are you if not beside me, distant as the unseen dawn
Blind am I without your presence, lost without your gentle form

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Softly We Die

Self medication needs dedication
Only the brave can never be saved
From self infliction of their addiction
To their own choices they are enslaved
Laugh they at danger, and fear's but a stranger
Youth disappears when a hard game is played

Would we but heed the clarion call - and listen - the
End's fast approaching us all

Devine intervention or legal prevention?
Is there a glimmer of hope for the brave?
Everyone knows it that jacks it or blows it -
everyone knows that it leads to the grave

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Sonnet - (For Daybreak)

At once I came awake in darkness knowing
That you were not beside me in the night
The fear within my veins a river flowing
Unstoppable as you might be in flight
Hell! Leap the stairs in burning consternation
To catch you as I'm sure you mean to go
For there can be no earthly consolation
Should you leave and not a word on me bestow
But here you sit in candlelight just reading
A sonnet by the master of the form
And though I feel adrenaline receding
Daybreak will be the bearer of the storm
So I read "Stay, O sweet, and do not rise!
The light that shines comes from thine eyes"

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Sonnet - (For Honour Named Are Thee)

For honour named are thee as Petrarch's Muse
Alive to me as she to he once crowned
By royal leaves that marked a king's renown
That Caesar's force his empire might effuse
Though by no king am I used or misused
Your dark eye and your darker heart confound
Yet evermore sweet beauty I expound
Naught but the tomb shall ever disabuse
Joy comradeship and hope will I forego
Until pale mortal light should disappear
Before death's call my privilege to cry
Your name is victory, now men shall know
Be they close in my company or near
Thy brilliance outshineth heaven's eye

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Sparrowhawk

At timbers edge where it curtains a hill
In the loamy shadows there something lay still
The tiny body of a sparrowhawk

Among the decay of last years leaves
Below its hunting ground the trees
The broken body of a sparrowhawk

Its barr'ed breast ruffled by the breeze
And curve of wing to speed with ease
Terror of the thrush – the sparrowhawk

And here she was all life departed
So I buried her like a broken hearted
Sweetheart to the sparrowhawk

In the elm above her I carved a name
So men should see it if this way they came
And the name I chose was yours my love

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Suicide In Hampshire

On the bank of a chalk stream night bright and clear
Where herons stalk and swans appear
Through morning mist at break of day
A woman threw her life away

Had she like some, lost sight of hope
Lost her love – couldn't cope
What might have led her to decide
To lay down by that riverside

And laying there `neath God's own sky
And with his angels standing by
Took poisons cruel `til life was done
And the stars from all the heavens gone

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Tempus Fugit

If, say at heaven's gate, you and I should meet anew
Would time accelerate again disappearing from our view?
Would you begin to speak like me and I in turn like you
And dressed alike roam paradise both laughing like we knew
That this was really not the end for we brave pilgrims two
But a rare and new beginning whose time was overdue

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

The Bluebell Woods

Should a veil of fear and suffering cause me at the end
To forget the love and kindness of you all
If I say such and such and this or that and it offend
Forgive this feeble body at its fall

And let's go gather blackberries as autumn's ushered in
And fill our hats with bursting purple fruit
And in the Hillman royally we'll glide the lanes to home
Me in my scarf and Jack in that old suit

If I appear to lose my senses as cold night descends
And rheumy eyes don't see you at my side
You hold my aged hand in yours in comfort to the end
Doubt not this heart has loved you all its life

And strawberry fields roll out before us here to pick our own
And fill glass jars with jam as sweet as smiles
And cover them with greaseproof held down with rubber bands
Well worth the walking of those country miles

Delicious scented lavender fair tulips in the spring
Remind you of the way I used to be
And I will wait for you with Jack until we all are home
The bluebell woods to walk as family

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

The Charge

These gallants gathered here about
Now `pon their fiery steeds do mount
And charging forth let out a yell
To glory now or else to hell!

Encased in armour dark as night
Each thunders forward as in flight
Fierce colours blazoned bright to see
One brotherhood, one company

Impetuous to all ahead
Though end of day may see them dead
A few brave souls may take the chance
To view their dreadful countenance

Poor citizens in fear must turn
As ardent through the smoke they burn
Fell deeds or mighty will be done
Upon a Harley-Davidson

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

The Dolorous Wound

This dolorous wound that festers still, caused me by your thoughtlessness
Given that you might fulfil fate's destiny with someone else
Is fair reminder to me now and every day that hence I breathe
That should I ever think to love, that love's own darts remain ensheathed

This hopeless cut that bleeds the most that will not clot nor knit alone
Is badge for me on coat and shield a blazon seen but else unknown
For it cannot be ciphered by those recreant or ill disposed
To risk all life upon a thing ephemeral or ill composed

This gushing hole so dreadful bright before me as a banner held
Must surely drain all mortal light then revenant am I compelled
To gimp among the wretches who have suffered hard of love's dark sword
With pain eclipsing all they know and all I know of loves reward

This spiteful bitter pulsing cup which doubtless flows forevermore
The fall of all I once held true and that most dear I now abhor
Stark desolate the land appears and low the skies forlorn decree
That you and life and love and all are done for all eternity

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

The Hole

Make not light of this condition
It drags you down and I've been wishing
That something new would come along
And fill my empty soul

To keep the lid on I've been drinking
And like as not that gets me thinking
That something better roll along soon
To fill this dangerous hole

And if I'm dying in some dark corner
Man, I think I ought to warn ya
Don't try and wake me or I'll take you with me
Down into the hole

Then you and me and Satan's army
Can drink a toast to going barmy
Hell's sinners all singing in harmony
At the bottom of the hole

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The Man Called Andan

He's by the fight scared bar slouching loosely on a stool
Wearing suede burgundy creepers and exuberating cool
He owns a pack of cigarettes, a matchbook and a beer
And he smells a lot like he's been doing time – only here

His shoes are the colour of an abattoir floor
His face the texture of a cheap church candle
He exhales, a lugubrious halo of violet smoke
And he whispers;

He whispers "Andan" and looks at me so I guess it's his handle

I say "What? "
So he says it again just a little louder
"Andan" - Just like that, but with a crooked half smile

"Los meurtos andan"

Didn't even stay for a shot

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

The Road The Ride And You (Faith In Machines)

The Earth's curve is revealed to me
As asphalt disappears
Beneath my boots and wheels I see
The rushing of the years
The light returning from these bars
In nickel hardened rays
Grows ever softer heading west
At end of shining day
And I will be with you tonight
In thought if not in deed
And I will carry you tonight
Behind me as we speed
Across dark plains in thundered haste
Through canyons cut by river's race
Where dust is all that's left to taste
And faith is all we need

Velocity of falling stars
Tears torn from streaming eyes
The drivers of these shadow cars
Can never feel the prize
That I will feel with you tonight
For I will carry you tonight
So all my life is here tonight
As you now realise

These towered heaps of shattered rock
On either side recede
And boiling clouds our progress mock
As if rain might impede us as
We ride dark plains in thundered haste
Through canyons cut by river's race
Where dust is all that's left to taste
And hope is all we need

And somewhere
Some distance behind us
It's all
Just

Gone

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

The Rose

I said your lips were like the rose
I said I liked the tilt of your nose
You said you'd be mine 'til all hell froze
Sure must have been a cold winter

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Unstuck

Through all the ways you hated me
The instances of vehemence seen
Up close in all their bloody rage
Were someday sure to turn a page

Sure to grind us slowly down to
Something loosely bound and fine
Stone is merely sand and water
And a hundred million years of time

And eventually our fingers numb
Whilst clinging to that shattered rock
Then slow but sure we must become
Unstuck

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

When Your Hand Slipped From Mine

When your hand slipped from mine that one final time
I could feel the stars running in rout
Then lonely will do what lonely knows best
And so I sought company out

She was soft, she was warm but there wasn't the storm
Or the smoke that I'd seen in your eyes
Still she took me inside, and faintly she sighed
So I just went along for the ride

Dark and cold was the room, and I studied that gloom
With dispassionate vision at best
As she loosened my jeans in that house small and mean
And kissed me like all of the rest

And when all was done, I paid her and run
For she'd asked me if she'd passed the test
And I said that maybe she was in the top three
Just to make her feel better I guess

But you know that I lied there was something inside me
That wept like a widow morose
And with all of her tenderness fained and indifferent
She never even got close

Not even close

Gabriel SimpsonLaw

Winter Will Hold Sway Again

Crystal shards of glass that gather, diamond bright upon the land
Prismy light the mist surrounding everything in winters hand
Hard the sunlight o'er the meadow, sharp the air that I must breathe
Now as love's evaporating, with the morning mist it leaves

Winter will hold sway again, life forlorn, all colour lost
Memories of summer past painted out by wicked frost
But for a moment I'll remember at the zenith of the sun
The warmth of August's kiss upon me even though November's come

Gabriel SimpsonLaw