

Corporations Are People, Too!

Poems by

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Set in New Baskerville

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1.

“What is a corporation?
What does it do?
To whom is it responsible?”
Does it care about you?

Is it buildings, companies,
Documents, waste?
Is it a subject, object, aggregate,
A function, a movement, a place?

Is it an agent we create
To explain what we do?
Is it shorthand for a process
That does things to you?

Does it generate wealth?
Is it good for your health?

2.

I don't know if I still have the bandwidth
to think outside of the box. I'm good at
identifying the low-hanging fruit
but innovation? Disruptive technologies?
That stuff may be for the millennials
to decide. Good luck to them. As for me,
well, there comes a time in all our lives
when you've got to just drink the Kool-Aid
and get with the program. Ok, sure,
you've no longer got the mojo
to break down any silos, but at least your
morale is no longer in the toilet.
I'm still entrepreneurial and proactive,
I'm collaborative, competitively-priced and non-reactive.

9.

— *After Ted Berrigan, Sonnets, 37*

It is light. I am awake. And horrible fears
form a fist in my chest. Steve Jobs is dead.
The wild gray night surrenders to the boldly iterative day.
I worry that I need vastly better analytic tools
to monetize my idiosyncrasies
and enhance my progress toward career optimization.
My career is my poem. It is light. I
am awake. I need vastly better analytic tools
to optimize my career. I pin my favorite motivational quotes
to the cubicle wall. I school myself with vast
analytic tools. It is light. Motivational quotes
punctuate the boldly iterative day. I
am awake. A horrible fear forms a fist
in my career, in my poem, in the thought “Steve Jobs is dead.”

17-18.

the corporation
e x p l o d e s
shatte ring g g g into a
n e t w o r k
like the moon at the beginning
of *Seveneves* by Neil Stephenson—
asteroids revolving around an absent center:
“That point—formerly the center of the moon, but now an
abstraction in space—
continued to revolve around the Earth
as it had done for billions of years”
so too the current hope for corporate survival
now a benzene ring of fragmentary freelance cells
sold as the “creative” answer to the old bureaucratic, organizational hell

the “hell” of the old “Fordist,” “Taylorist” economy, that is
with its white collar Organization Men (sic), its rigid 9-5
its so-called manufacturing, blue-color, workers’ aristocratic
P A R A D I S E
now DEFUNCT & DEBUNKED
by a breathtaking new order
and a new productive class, one that demands more
AUTONOMY! EMPOWERMENT! INNOVATION!
the mighty technocratic cognitariat
whose precarious march through evolving, revolving careers
is mobile, synaptic, rhizomatic
like the very brain itself!
and therefore “inevitable,” a “natural order”
(one that doesn’t, of course, respect any national border)

30.

Corporations are people, too!

It's true.

They worry about death, taxes, healthcare, outsourcing, all that stuff,
And sometimes they've got it tough,

Just like you. Corporations are people too!

Monsanto, IBM, Microsoft, Nike and PepsiCo,

Are no different from Eunice, Harvey, or Mary Jo.

It's just that one tries to "make money," while the other "accrues,"

'Cause corporations are people, too!

One looks like a big old building stuck in the street;

The other pounds the pavement with tiny feet.

One can break an economy, but the other can get pretty damn rude:

And now both talk like hipsters, just to seem cool.

'Cause corporations are people, too!