

## GEOFFREY GATZA

from, The Martian Poems

### Galvanic Corrosion

Do not paint the less noble metal without also painting the more noble  
The metal is unstable as the mind is unreliable

When you are alone, corroding  
The waves come to take you away

in ways we cannot see as the black wind that pits

the iron deteriorates in fatigue cracks

It is Mother Nature spreading tendrils of orange  
Covering in cancer, coming covering to remove

as a blight that is forming on her shell  
coming to remove, removing the rebar

when the water rose what did it cover? and what have we left behind

# Anagnorisis

to recognize

When I touch these stones  
I become a part of the past

notorious, notice, connoisseur,

I tell stories of the great rocks to children  
and my voice becomes the voice of stone

your mouth will do, a plumbers pipe  
is better and a wrench is not proper

to tell the tales of false circles  
gyrating to varied light speeds

one needs to bludgeon not torque

When I touch these children  
great rocks become tools of sight

or discovery

Ultimately that the ancestor  
of such words can recognize

diagnosis, ignore, annotate, ennoble, and narrate

they are twins, they drop their guns, and hug each other tightly.

# Verily

translated for Ted Pelton

Vulture Mountain is the place of the great gathering  
and so it was that year the divinity came to the fire

and knelt with the great monks and entered into the great prayer  
of profound illumination and through the power of the Mountain,

Flame saw the five Colors to be empty of nature

The wise high priest, Versa said to the noble Flame, Can this be true?  
If one wishes to practice this profound illumination, one begins where?

To see the color from the form one must open the eye and see in this way:

Form is emptiness; emptiness is also form  
Emptiness is nothing other than form;  
form is nothing but complete emptiness

feeling, perception, formation, and consciousness  
are complete forms and complete forms of emptiness

Thus, all things are emptiness  
There are no omni characteristics  
There is no origin and no cessation

There is no impurity and so, no purity  
There is no decrease and so, no increase  
Therefore, in emptiness there is no form,

no feeling,  
no perception,  
no formation,  
no consciousness;  
no eye, no ear, no nose,  
no tongue, no body, no mind;

no appearance, no sound, no smell,  
no taste, no touch, no colors,  
no eye sight up to no mind sight,  
no sight of colors, no mindful conscious sight;

no ignorance, no end of ignorance

no old age and no beginnings of death,

no end to our old age and no end of death;  
no suffering, no origin of suffering,  
no cessation of suffering, no path, no wisdom,  
no attainment, and no non-attainment

Since the divinities have no attainment,  
they abide by means of illuminations

Since there is nothing to obscure the mind, there is nothing of fear  
If there is nothing to fear then there is no fear, no suffering, no joy

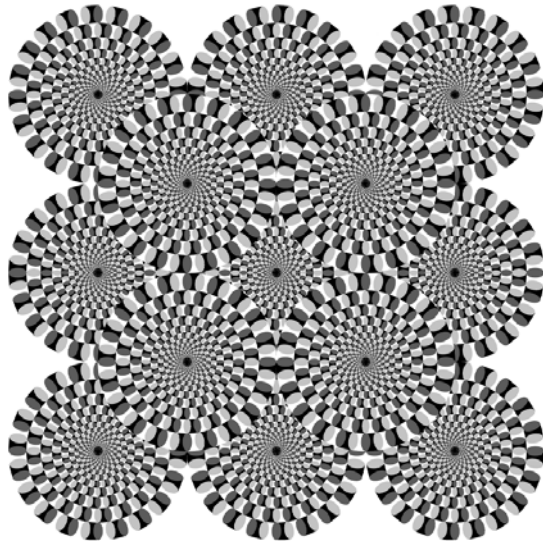
They transcend the misleading and verily attain complete nirvana

All the Divinities of the color wheel, by means of illumination,  
fully awaken to unsurpassable, true, complete enlightenment

Therefore, the great mantra of illumination, the mantra of great insight,  
the unsurpassed mantra, the unequalled mantra, the mantra that calms all suffering,

should be known as truth,

since there is no deception I shall impart the illumining mantra:



Then the Blazing One arose from that gathering  
an assembly of the world, it's people, monks, and gods  
rejoiced and praised the wisdom of the Noble Flame