

Restoring the Nature of the Universe

Janet Kuypers poetry
benefit feature for
the restoration of
Tablerock Theater

cc#d bonus issue

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All writings in this benefit feature are edited versions of the originals that appear in the books “The Universe is in Your Hands”, “Twitter Verse Periodic Table Poetry”, and “Every Element of the Yerar (volume Two: July-December)”.

cover photo: John Pliska photo of Tablerock
superimposed over the Cosmic Cliffs in the Carina Nebula
NIRCam Image from the James Webb Space telescope.

Journal entry from Canyonlands National Park, Utah

There were no towns for at least forty miles, and no clouds in the sky. It was absolutely amazing. We could see the Milky Way very clearly, and in the winter sky we could easily spot constellations spanning the sky, dropping into the horizon. I don't know if I have ever seen that many stars in the night sky before.

Sitting on a white sandstone rock, he finally spoke.

"Looking up at these stars, doesn't it make you feel so insignificant?"

My eyes must have been saucers, looking up at the night sky with a grin I couldn't remove from my face. "Not at all. I could never think that."

"How could you not?"

I told him that I can't look at my life as insignificant, that line of thinking leads to defeatism. I can't think that way, for how could I function if I thought I was insignificant?

I looked at these stars and thought that this was science, something I could learn from. The constancy of the stars comforted me: these were the same stars I looked at when I was a child. I told him that in my opinion, the science of astronomy is beautiful, in this inherently beautiful night sky.

I told him that I loved the understanding we can gain about our world by studying other planets and stars and galaxies — and I loved the fact that I was on one of those planets, and have this unique opportunity to actually look at and contemplate the night sky. Tiny or not, I have the mind to understand that I am connected, and am somehow a part of this amazing Universe, especially on nights like this when I am surrounded by so many stars. *That* could never make me feel small.

Volcano Lava Along the Road

After receiving ashes from Mt. St. Helens,
After snorkeling Oahu beaches emerging from lava beds,
After walking the ruins of Pompeii from Mt. Vesuvius,

After walking the sunken caldera of Deception Island —
Antarctica's volcano — or along Galapagos lava beds,
After looking past Earth to volcanoes on our *own* moon,

Astronomers called the moon's dark spots "seas", made
After not water, but *lava*... and hearing of more & more
Volcanic eruptions
that you better not attribute to global warming,

After all this time, I've been starting to understand how
Volcanoes made 80% of all of the Earth's surfaces —
After they formed our early oceans and atmosphere too.

That may be why I drove the roads of New Mexico —
this time, to just drive on highways,

Pull over anywhere along Mount Taylor to pick up red or
Black football-sized chunks of lava. And no, you're not
Stealing them, because so many young volcanoes are *so*

Abundant there that you *look* for things like Mesas to
Break up the outdoor museum of volcanoes that *is* New
Mexico. So, *I* say, take a drive that way. See for yourself.

Would you like some cesium with your honey?

Cesium-137
from nuclear fission
blankets our sky
after Cold War tests


it falls globally
but a U.S. professor
found East Coast honey
had 100X more Cesium-137

for low-potassium soil there
means plants soak Cesium instead

from plant nectar to bees
voilà
a sweet radioactive treat

Would you like some Cesium with your honey?

Janet Kuypers
2021 Twitter poem



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Dy					
98					103
Cf					Lr

Twitter
verse
Periodic
Table
Poetry

Janet Kuypers
Twitter-length poetry
for every element
in the Periodic Table

Seersuoijacollid

How Real the Gulf Feels

If you're flying in from across the country, you'll feel that
Heat and humidity before you even step off the plane.

If you were starting at the tourist stops,
Leave Disneyworld and fly down to the smaller
Naples airport instead, down at the end of Radio Road.

If they still offer it, spend the small bit of
Coin to learn how to *fly* an airplane, for once you
Reach altitude they'll let you take control of steering,

Look down to see trees swaying, rte. 41,
that goes through Chicago into Wisconsin, and yes,
down here it's also called Tamiami Trail, and yes,
It *does* go to Miami, but learn how to say it properly...

and sense how real that Gulf feels is when you literally fly by it.

#

But after you've seen it from up above,
Go further south, forget the tours and rent a rowboat

To make your own journey though the
Everglades, the largest tropical wilderness
In the U. S. and the third-largest national

Park in the contiguous United States.
Due to past efforts to drain the marshland,

the Everglades is half the size it was a
Century ago, so I'm telling you, take this
Moment to forget the tourism of this state — instead,

Rent a rowboat, because this is the
Pure way to immerse yourself in the sounds,
The desolation, the immense peace you'll finally feel.

Knowingly Live. Purposely Live

life is as precious
and as deliberate
as you choose it to be

we all make choices
without thinking about it

which is why we may wonder
how we got into this hole

and how on earth
can we get out —

and through all this mess
we only feel lost

#

For it is only after
we make that conscious choice

to act on our beliefs
that we begin to feel
alive again.

*oh, you talk about beliefs,
it's all overreacting,
we've been fine all along
this is just how everyone lives*

yes, and everyone wallows
in the pit that no one remembers

falling
into

so stop passively
letting others

dictate your lives
and control you

step out and
say something

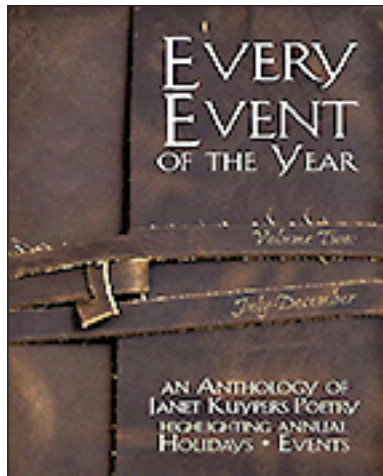
because civil disobedience
isn't the act of the insane

it is a measure
people take

when they realize
things have gone too far

and they can't just
sit back and do nothing

#



if you are lost
seek the truth
as all philosophers do,
for the definition
of a philosopher
is a person who seeks the truth
and the true key may be

to live simply, to live
in harmony with nature

and commune with
our surroundings

once you do that
it will seem simple

to live deliberately,
to live strategically

and suddenly,
once you begin

to think through life,
you're see that

you're no longer lost

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