

Breaking Through

by Patrice Malatestinic

After readings from Ted Chiang's *Stories of Your Life and Others*, and Covid19 lockdown

Breaking through to the *Extraordinary*: Discovery, gift, plague,
Can jettison one forward; hurtling, careening, zooming out of the box.
Hold tight or enjoy the ride? Stillness and progress are not mutually exclusive.

Footing removed, sanity at risk,
Livelihood, work, identity rendered dross – Find your Craft!
Search beyond circumstance; limitation invites absolute freedom (consider Mandela).

Create for more than just novelty, or GDP,
Reinvent self *for* one's self.
Performers do this all the time:
Overcome impediment; adapt to unsuitable venues, unenlightened audiences,
Hot lights, no lights, squealing mics.
Interpret. Spin. Improvise a unique production.

Can't hurt to meditate.
Connect with core, summon higher self,
Angels, ancestors, collective unconscious...God.
Create from chaos. That sea is vast –
Teeming with freedom and opportunity,
Rife with rabbit holes (the most basic, one's place in the world).

Dive in. Stake your underwater claim. Mimic Chiang's mavericks.
Be fearless. Stay true to newfound superpowers. But most important,
Remain open to meet yourself.