



# s m i t t e n

new poetry, non-fiction, and short stories

william paul, [planetshifter.com](http://planetshifter.com) and [willipaulstudio.com](http://willipaulstudio.com)

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# contents

## new poetry

Purple Grass  
We are the Soil and the Sea  
love over the earth  
tech girl  
black oil rainbows  
Sirens of Light  
The Gate (video)

## non-fiction

Solar Biodiversity and Eco-Alchemy  
Experiencing AI Nature  
Intentions. Routines. Morals.  
Bears  
Kumbaya  
bipolar box

## short stories

Morse Code: 9 Lines from 2062  
The AR magic carpet ride  
A Sea Rescue  
"Rev", the start-up Robot  
Gracie and the Old Oak Man  
Grenok and the Cave Journey  
It she house pet

## new poetry



### **Purple Grass**

The wind blows her hair free  
The grass climbs and tickles  
Hoping to touch her glow  
The afternoon is running away from the Sun  
As she collects her soul.

### **We are the Soil and the Sea**

Building bridges  
Time to Dream  
Creating a third force, a unique combination  
Falling asleep thinking about the relationship

Allocate time for interaction  
Be honest  
Bring values to the table  
Life is a just a journey, there are no answers

We know that love is ultimately good and sweet  
We pursue it  
Start with the love of Nature, this is a deep and key foundation  
Calm, humble, sensitive, patient, flexible?  
Love can frighten the soul  
We are the egos.



## **love over the earth**

In a green and darkened forest years away  
she waits with eyes wide open  
like a lighthouse shining  
a campfire lifting sparks to the heavens  
the land and streams  
cling to her body  
like a child to her mother  
I know this light  
this love  
brilliant like the Moon myth arching over the earth

## **tech girl**

i hear you callin'  
what's on your mind  
are you comfortable?

on the screen  
the unsaid and the stated  
did you make it whole  
are you tough enough?

your mike drips with lavender  
signals crossed  
i'm in the den of confusion  
are you wired enough?

## **black oil rainbows**

My day starts with war blogs  
War yogurt and coffee  
War oil

Skimming war and oil  
Day dreaming ships full of bombs  
War soup dead babies and lies for lunch

My afternoon with burning eyes  
And black rainbows clutching  
That second cup of war coffee

## **Sirens of Light**

Moving overhead  
Made of wishes  
and dreams  
Sewing bright patterns  
with clouds  
and water streams

Listen to the Light  
Dance the Bright  
Find your Tiger's Tail

Sirens of Light  
gaining momentum  
over land  
in the sea  
building mountains  
with the honey bees

Listen to the Light  
Dance the Bright  
Grab her Tiger's Tail

the gate

a child's journey  
through Gaza  
and beyond

**video:** <https://youtu.be/lBje821piJs>

chasing friends

learning math

swinging on a swing

playing soccer

eating with friends and family

praying

sound of jets overhead

bomb blasts

babies crying

mourners wailing

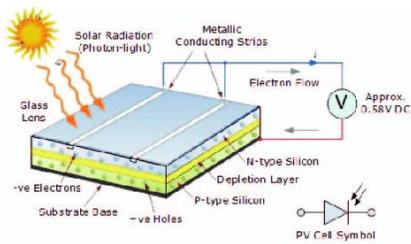
buried in rubble

Sound Credit:

"Transformed wind chimes: Nature-Symphony 32" Philip\_Goddard

via FreeSound.org [https://freesound.org/people/Philip\\_Goddard/sounds/720934/](https://freesound.org/people/Philip_Goddard/sounds/720934/)

## non-fiction



### Solar Biodiversity and Eco-Alchemy

#### A Definition of Biodiversity

Biodiversity is all of the different kinds of life you'll find in one area - the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up the natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life. Biodiversity is usually explored at three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.

A strong biodiversity equals a strong resilience. Resilience refers to the ecosystem's capability of tolerating disturbance and restoring itself. If the disturbance is of sufficient magnitude or duration, a threshold may be reached where the ecosystem experiences extinctions and undergoes a regime shift, possibly permanently.

#### What Is Alchemy?

Why are the obscure symbols and arcane principles of this ancient craft getting so much attention in modern times? How do our modern alchemists discover and share in so many diverse contemporary areas as psychology, spirituality, the arts, literature, business, filmmaking, gaming, and sciences like medicine and quantum physics? The answer to these questions lies in the universal nature of alchemical practices and operations.

Alchemy can be defined most simply as the "art of transformation." It is concerned with the underlying principles of how things change and the basic process of transforming one thing into another. <https://www.planetshifter.com/myth/1900/comparative-alchemy-in-the-permaculture-age-on-transmutation-from-openmythsources-com-and-the-alchem>

#### The Transformation of the Sun's Energy

Solar energy plays a vital role in saving shrinking fossil fuel resources. To harvest solar radiations at their maximum limits specialized cells have been designed which convert solar radiation into direct current. These cells are termed photovoltaic cells, and are made up of semiconductor material that helps to convert solar radiation into direct current.

[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Basic-diagram-of-Phtovoltaic-solar-cell\\_fig1\\_323354575](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Basic-diagram-of-Phtovoltaic-solar-cell_fig1_323354575)

## Solar Biodiversity and Eco-Alchemy

The transformation of the Sun's energy to voltaic energy is a modern-day example of Eco-Alchemy. Here biodiversity and resilience support the human ecosystem's capability to reuse and restore itself. Any regime change, away from fossil fuels, is a positive action to maintain balance and support life. A solarized system at home or office is an integrated, intricate technological web.



## Experiencing AI Nature

AI-generated imagery is the creation of animated visual content using targeted prompts, data, and computer programs. AI (AR) uses screens. Can an AI-Nature generated screen story substitute for an actual walk in the woods? Furthermore, can AI engineer the five basic human senses: touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste found in Human Nature?

'Nature can generate many positive emotions, such as calmness, joy, and creativity and can facilitate concentration. Nature connectedness is also associated with lower levels of poor mental health, particularly lower depression, and anxiety.'

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/research/nature-how-connecting-nature-benefits-our-mental-health-scotland>

Does technology disconnect us from nature? Or afford us a cheapened or heightened experience of Nature?

"(Technology) takes our focus and it narrows it, and what you're focusing on, it generally, a lot, it's disturbing, it's negative, whereas when you go into nature, all that melts away. There is

evidence that our addiction to technologies such as social media can lead us down a very dark path." (<https://www.wgrz.com/article/sports/outdoors/studies-show-that-technology-such-as-social-media-can-have-negative-effects-on-our-health/> )

How AI is used to support nature?

Scientists are using artificial intelligence to fight biodiversity loss by analysing vast amounts of data, monitoring ecosystems and spotting trends over time. An increasing number of researchers are turning to artificial intelligence (AI) to monitor biodiversity and bolster efforts to help endangered species.

Can an AI-generated Nature screen experience facilitate a spiritual awakening?

"While AI may not fully grasp the spirituality in Nature, it could aid in scrutinizing the contours of human experiences and understanding. From a scientific vantage, this dialogue reflects the pulsating evolution of human cognition and artificial intelligence."

(<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/intersection-ai-spirituality-exploring-possibility-realm-borg-ellul/>)



**Intentions. Routines. Morals.**

If you're talking about an aim or purpose, then you have intention.

"The best of intentions?" an old cliché.

We live in a world with little to no intention. Often, we are just trying to get through the work day or pay the bills.

Self-serving routines? (are routines intentions?)

Who defines your intentions? Your boss? Your bank? Your Kids? Your Church? Your Army?

If somebody else is defining your intentions, are they still intentions?

Moral: a lesson, especially one concerning what is right or prudent, that can be derived from a story, a piece of information, or an experience.

How do morals (a lesson) compare to intentions (a purpose?)

Do you practice intentionality, routines and/or morals in the ballot box?



**Bears**

But can Ai practice patience?

Patience: the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.



**Kumbaya**

Each word Kumbaya is an actual Hebrew word: Kum means arise; bah means come or is coming and Yah is the name of the Eternal God. God, arise and come. Arise and come, God.

Writing in 2010 for The New York Times, author and journalist Samuel G Freedman noted that “Kumbaya” is “deeply rooted in a black Christianity's vision of a God who intercedes to deliver

both solace and justice” and that “the people who were 'crying, my Lord' were blacks suffering under the Jim Crow regime.”

[Research] suggests that “Kumbaya” is an African American spiritual which originated somewhere in the American south, and then traveled all over the world: to Africa, where missionaries sang it for new converts...

KumBaYa is a classic campfire song that is covered by The Chipmunks and The Chipettes in the third CGI/live-action film, Alvin, and the Chipmunks: Shipwrecked, after Simon creates fire.



## **bipolar box**

Bipolar Disorder is a mood disorder featuring manic, hypomanic, and/or depressive symptoms that are experienced in distinct episodes. Each year it is estimated that around 7 million adults in the US experience bipolar disorder. I get money from SSDI and work a part-time job to support my art and causes. I try to add value with my stories and comments to LinkedIn and Facebook.

My family has put me in a good spot after a recent prolonged manic episode, but it's time to reposition my goals and extend my life beyond the pale routines (the 10:00am to 3:00pm shift). Surely, I am a special case, a man-child creative genius with a loaded, but strained biography.

Years on the job (along with some bipolar months) have created visionary projects along with some permanent resume holes. It's a lithium life that needs more remote challenges and friction now.

With my recent wins by creating a pilot tv show and an artsy podcast (see: <https://willipaulstudio.com/>), would you hire me?

I will keep a benevolent balance between the meds, social media, and God. My vision as a writer and producer is to collaborate with the global community to prepare us for the next Age.

I'm knocking on profiles now.

## short stories



### **Morse Code: 9 Lines from 2062**

“We stole an old pontoon boat from a family who left it for higher ground.”

“There are no fish left in the Bay, the nets of the trawlers cleaned them out years ago.”

“No birds, locals ate them all. Then they starved to death.”

“The waterline has risen 1.75 feet, human consciousness lowered exponentially.”

“The Sun is burning skin and attitudes alike. The road is a swamp.”

“It’s 2062, the remaining humans, black and blue and gone.”

“Winds from the south. Temperature off the charts.”

“Canned cat food is all that is left from the barter store up the road.”

“I dumped the last of my fish hooks.”



## The AR magic carpet ride

What is the myth of the flying carpet? The first, and arguably most well-known myth is from the Hebrew myth of King Solomon. As the story goes, when God appointed Solomon king over all the land, he gifted him a carpet that could fly. It was massive, with some sources claiming it was sixty miles square, and others claiming it could transport 40,000 men.

'Augmented reality (AR) in the Metaverse involves overlaying visual, auditory, or other sensory information onto the real world to enhance one's experience. Unlike virtual reality, which creates its own cyber environment, augmented reality adds to the existing world as it is.'

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/a/augmented-reality.asp>

\* \* \* \* \*

A magic carpet, also called a flying carpet, is typically used as a form of transportation, and can quickly or instantaneously carry its user to their destination. Is the carpet Turkish or American Indian? Unsure. But magic it is. Uncover the profound symbolism behind the magic carpet, a representation of human desires for liberation and escapism.

Enter AR.

The old dusty rug has been waiting for a pilot for Centuries. Today the dust will find a new home as AR crew sets up the virtual landscape in the old man's attic. Evelyn slips on the Vision Pro. The name Evelyn is considered to come from combining the names Eve and Lynn, which mean mother of life and lake. A video of flying through the clouds, from drone footage, is used as the base image. Wires stretch and hang the carpet from the studio ceiling. Evelyn is superimposed in the live recording to serve as pilot and antagonist.

Evelyn, the Queen of the show, flies over London and the UK in mere minutes. Cities are specks. The studio is abuzz with flowing data and geospatial imagining. The juxtaposition of the GPS, AR, the landscape video, and the carpet is enhanced in post-production and saved as a .MOV4.

Evelyn removes her Vision Pro goggles and smirks: "Morocco was lit up like a Christmas Tree."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Well, you don't know what we can find  
Why don't you come with me, little girl  
On a magic carpet ride?  
Well, you don't know what we can see  
Why don't you tell your dreams to me?  
Fantasy will set you free"

- "Magic Carpet Ride," Steppenwolf



**A Sea Rescue**

Katlyn rides aboard a US Navy submarine, her Dad is Captain  
She falls off of the ship while photographing the nearby coastline  
The sub submerges without her  
The crew panics as she is doesn't respond to roll call  
Katlyn is treading water on the surface  
The sub at dead stop then rotates to vertical  
The discharge from the sub's engines is bubbling around her at the surface  
The Captain is following his daughter on radar  
The sub breaches the surface and the sailors in life rafts pick her up  
The ship's doctor treats her for hyperthermia  
Katlyn and her Father are reunited

## **"Rev", the start-up Robot**

"Rev", the start-up Robot, is an AI programmed electronic office worker, designed to be a Jack of all Trades. He wouldn't want to be a human being. No - "too simple, too unoriginal," he says. His private office, the janitorial closet, is his domain now. Rev is controlled by super apps and Smart Phones and is actionized via text or voice. He is WIFI enabled.

### Rev's Partial Schedule for Wednesdays:

#### Task 6

7:00 pm

Clean kitchen floor, take out the black and blue refuse cans, clean the reception room inside windows.

#### Task 7

9:00 pm

Send video of work accomplished to Admin Assistant for review and approval.

#### Task 8

10:30 pm

Charge battery

Download and install updates

Sleep Mode until 6:00 am

### Rev's Schedule for Thursdays:

#### Task 1

6:15 am

Dial-down the alarm system and unlock doors

Put the quiche in the oven and make coffee

#### Task 2

6:45 am

Turn-up lights

Turn-on power strips at all work stations

#### Task 3

7:15 am

Send updated company appointment calendars and to-dos lists to selected recipients.

Task 4

8:00 am – 11:30 am

Work AI tasks with C-Level staff

Task 5

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Greet visitors and water plants in reception room.

No one confuses Rev with a human being.



**Gracie and the Old Oak Man**

Up the sledding hill, in sight of the old red barn, stands an ancient oak tree with craggy squirrel nests, broken branches... winter armor. Animals hibernate under its bark, in the massive trunk, and in the soil among the roots. An old swing dangles then swings in the cool afternoon wind.

The Oak acorns are the yearly children bred from high in the canopy. They carry the ancient starchy meal information for natural recipes like acorn-fueled muffins and grits.

#####

Gracie ditches her sled in the front yard and shuffles her boots up to the “Grandfather Tree” on the hill. An old friend and philosopher, the “acorn machine” just sits and waits for his little friend to chat about the issues of the day. The tree feels the warm, moist heat of her breath and creaks a hello.

“Hi Grandpa,” she says!

“Hello and happy day,” the talking tree coos. “What are you studying in school these days?”

Gracie turns-on her iPad and offers the offers-up a definition of climate change:

“Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, but since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate

change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels (like coal, oil, and gas) which produces heat-trapping gases. Trapped gas raises the earth's global temperature. Icebergs melt and sea levels rise."

She looked at the old Oak for an emotional clue but got bark instead.

"Hog wash!" snorted the Man Tree. Climate change is just a fact of evolution! It's normal.

"What did you say?" Gracie looked aghast.

Gracie continued: "Have you heard of a 'Gray Swan' – an event that is entirely unprecedented but completely predictable. This is the context or future that climate change is bringing us."

"No grey swans around here," exclaimed Old Oak. "Plenty of other birds though, that's an owl nest in my trunk up there."

"There's nothing natural about burning fossil fuels," as she looks in irony at the oil-based smoke coming out of the farm house chimney.

Gracie: "Your soil base is absorbing CO2 each day and helping offset your 'natural pollution!' "

He snorts. "A natural type of composting, then?"

"Of sorts," Gracie replied. "We will be putting solar panels on the roof soon. Now this is evolution!"

"If'n you can see the Sunshine, child."



## **Grenok and the Cave Journey**

‘A cave is a collapse of a geologic formation, mine or structure which may occur during mining, tunneling, or steep-walled excavation such as trenching. Geologic structures prone to spontaneous cave-ins include lava tubes and a variety of other subsurface rock formations.’

What we have here is a large hole or ground cave, an ancient reverse crater, constantly pumping hot moist air up into the atmosphere, that changes the local weather scene, and the consciousness of a small island village in the South Pacific.

The tribe is facing rising seas and a loss of land and culture in a crisis of climate change. If sea levels rise, the land-based cave, and all of its knowledge, will be submerged or gone for good.

Our Hero is Grenok, a twenty something daughter of the tribal Chief. With great fanfare, and a burlap journey suit – made from coffee bean sacks, she climbs down into the cave to discover its secrets, perils, and promise.

She uses a braided rope, for just her journey, crafted from the hair of the tribal women and men. As local lore has it, she would have to travel down for 12 days to fulfill her mission. The heat is a constant hurdle. But what of the source? There is no smoke, just clean steam generating from an unknown heat source below. A maze of tunnels and chambers. And strange animals and rocks, but no CO<sub>2</sub>.

She has mostly a wet descent but finds dry nooks and crannies to rest and dry out along the way. Grenok will have leather pouches of water sent down, along with food, using the rope. When she is finished with her journey, she will send a signal and the strongest tribal members will pull her up.

Grenok is a mist catcher. ‘Humans have ... mimicked water harvesting approaches found in nature.’

Throughout human history, societies have used two-and three-dimensional structures such as plates, nets, or rods to trap fog and mist droplets.’ The Cave Tribe uses palm leaves.

Guano is the accumulated excrement of seabirds or bats. Bats have been roosting here. Grenok lands on a rock shelf to rest and steps in their guano. Guano is a highly effective fertilizer due to the high content of nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium, all key nutrients essential for plant growth.

“In general, bats seek out a variety of daytime retreats such as caves, rock crevices, old buildings, bridges, mines, and trees. Different species require different roost sites. Some species, such as the Mexican free-tailed and gray bats live in large colonies in caves.”

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/bats-in-caves.htm>. Based on the movement of the bats, Grenok senses that there are multiple entrances to the cave.

Sleeping provisions are meager: a small foam pad and a sleeping bag. It is Day 7 of the descent and temperature in the cave is a humid 89 degrees.

Fossils and ancient graffiti adorn the cave walls at Day 9. Photographs are taken, and Grenok is careful not to disturb the water-colored implants of the people who came before her. At Day 10 fresh water seeps through the walls as the cave narrows to no access. Mushrooms are collected and bagged for the return trip up the cave, back with Grenok and her tribal people.

Day 12. The return. Sometimes she will be dangled and pulled and sometimes she will free climb. It's tricky logistics. Grenok attaches foot rests to the rope to use when she isn't climbing up with her feet. Bagged artifacts from her journey are attached to the rope below her position so they can follow her up to the surface.

“In ... the hero's journey, or the monomyth, is the common template of stories that involve a hero who goes on an adventure, is victorious in a decisive crisis, and comes home changed or transformed.”

As she is pulled up from the mouth of the cave, her expedition is not ending. Her team of scientists is ready to examine and classify the rocks and animals from her journey. These are sacred with plenty of stories to come.

Grenok uploads her photographs and video for this discovery phase. The ecology of the cave and its animals and markings is about to be exposed to light. And love.



## It she house pet

“Honey, go fetch me some latte, hon”

Whirl, dash, spin: “Roger that Markus”

This isn’t your average robot

4 million cash from the best Japanese AI cartel

A LinkedIn special

All 5’ 8” aglow with “her” fake sunny side up skin ...

The microscopic pores emitting a slow French female perfume clone

“Here it is, Sir, your drink.”

Robotic arm smoothly extended with a forced smile

“Please be careful, it’s hot”

“Have a seat babe.” It’s either Honey or Babe these days

Marcus hasn’t named his it / she / house pet yet

“Pull out your notebook and show me the streaming channels”

Out of her chest, an eBook protrudes attached to a reinforced electro umbilical cord.

“Hoops, silent films and news” hmmm Marcus has other ideas...

“Massage, Babe. Do fetch the oil.”

**William Paul**

Seaside, CA

[willipaul1@gmail.com](mailto:willipaul1@gmail.com)

<https://willipaulstudio.com/>

<https://www.planetshifter.com/>