

American Vedantist Newsletter No. 3

August 2014

Volume 1, Number 3

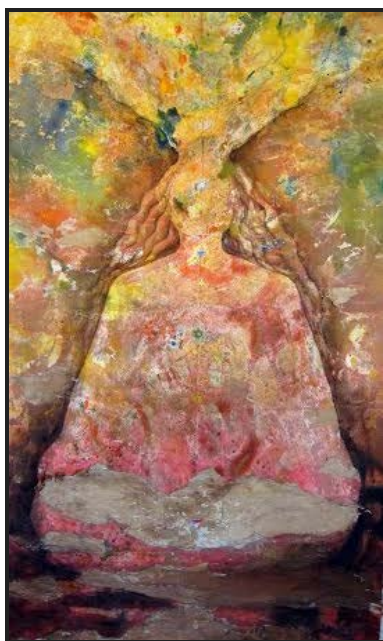


American Vedantist is a not-for-profit online journal dedicated to developing Vedanta in the West and to facilitating companionship among Vedantists. (Find out more about [American Vedantist](#) at the bottom of this page or visit our [website](#))




American Vedantist Issue #68

From ancient times, spiritual culture has been largely transmitted through poetry and storytelling. Didactic religious prose didn't even arise until the Axial Age, c. 900—300 B.C.E. And even then poetry and storytelling continued to be important vehicles for communicating spiritual ideas. They engage the imagination and express truths that are inaccessible to the rational mind. In this issue, American Vedantist celebrates contemporary spiritual poetry and fiction.



Essence of Sun and Earth

by Vijali Hamilton

Golden we are, sitting on our throne of bark and earth, bathed in sunlight,
smoldering in the cauldron of life.

Essence of sun and earth flows through our veins,
radiant as the child taking her first look at the world...

Read more: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/essence-of-sun-and-earth/vijali@worldwheel.org>



Two Poems by Judith, Hermit of Sarada

Mother Moose

Some days I feel as happy as a
Mother Moose— with her face as long as the day,
and her eyes as wide as the
sky:

on those days I feel free and
untrammelled, footloose, like her
when her baby has finally struck out on its
own...

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/two-poems-by-judith-hermit-of-sarada/SrJudith001@aol.com>

The Honey Doctrine

by Russell Atkinson

“All this is honey to all this,” the old man said, his honey-brown flesh shining from his outstretched arms. Up and over his head they went then down until his fluid fingers touched the leaves on the forest floor. His hands, still beautiful in their grace, swept down his body and arched toward the youth, Shvetaketu, sitting before him. “All this is honey to all this,” the old man said...

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/articles/the-honey-doctrine/>

THEAKO@WESTNET.COM.AU



Four Poems by Nileen Putatunda **Pain**

A barefooted man
Walked in front of me
With a bad limp
Pulling his empty rickshaw,
I caught up with him
And asked what happened...

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/four-poems-by-nileen-putatunda/>

nileenp@hotmail.com

Two Poems by Edith Tipple

1.
A turtle withdraws
Its legs, I withdraw
My will
Into the shell of Self..

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/two-poems-by-edith-tipple/>

EDITHTIPPLE@GMAIL.COM

The Magical Mirror of Kuan Yin Pusa

By William Page

Among my father's papers when he died was an account of a picture he had bought in a Shanghai flea market. This was a framed painting of Kuan Yin Pusa, the Bodhisattva of Compassion, "She who heeds the cries of the world." Unlike most pictures of Kuan Yin, this one depicted her dressed entirely in blue. The frame was made of gilded wood, but was notable for a small carved head at the top center. It was the head of Bodhidharma, the First Patriarch of Chan Buddhism...

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/articles/the-magical-mirror-of-kuan-yin-pusa/>

WPAGE@YMAIL.COM



Haiku

by Anna Monday

Tongue-tied, dumb, before
the man of letters who plants
seed words in dead tongues

<http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/a-poem-by-anna-monday/>

anna@mondaymedia.org

The Word god

by Russell Atkinson

To most,
the word god
is a mere sound in the air;
an imagined being,
existing nowhere...

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/the-word-god/>

THEAKO@WESTNET.COM.AU

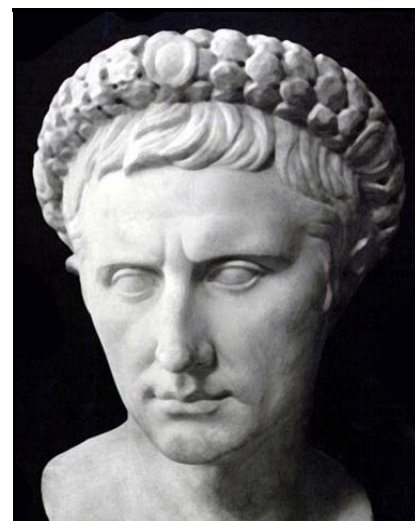
The Last Letter of Pontius Pilate

by Steven F. Walker

A Christian legend probably dating back to the third century has it that Pontius Pilate, driven to suicidal desperation by the memories of his role in the crucifixion of Christ, drowned himself in the Rhone River somewhere near the modern city of Avignon, then the Roman city of Avenio in the province of Gallia Narbonensis...

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/articles/the-last-letter-of-pontius-pilate/>

walkersteven@hotmail.com



Looking Up

By Richard Simonelli

Good, bad, happy, sad,
many flavors, a single taste.
Realize the limitless through limitations, within limitations.
Confusion dawns as wisdom without eliminating confusion...

Read More:

<http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/looking-up/>

RichSimone@aol.com



Three Poems by Eileen Klinck

1.

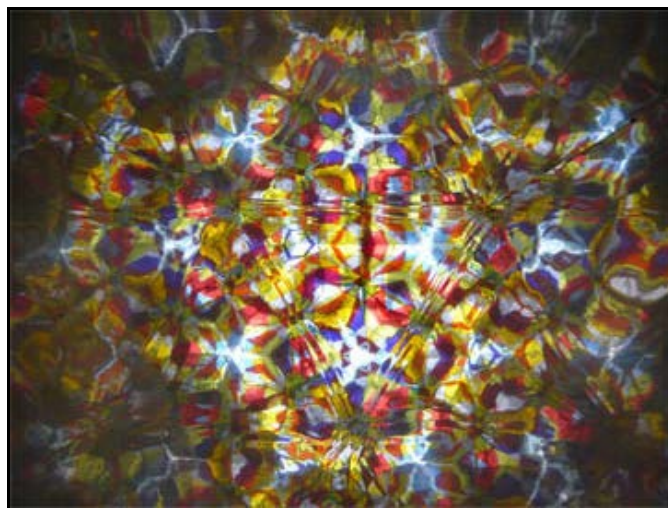
Virtual Dream

I am a pixel.
Dancing energy potential
Blinking/Replaced
In Kaleidoscopic pattern.
Ever changing hologram...

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/three-poems-by-eileen-klinck/>

EILEENMKK@GMAIL.COM

*Image Attribution: By Hide-sp (Hide-sp's file) [GFDL (<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>), CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>) or CC-BY-SA-2.5 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>)], via Wikimedia Commons



By Hide-sp (Hide-sp's file) See Full Attribution*

Dark Knowledge

by Russell Atkinson

Avidly watching the external show,
we do not know we do not know,
and so, within ignorance seek to find,
release from the shackles that bind,
as gripped by pincers in god's hand...

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/dark-knowledge/>

THEAKO@WESTNET.COM.AU



Two Poems by Jeannette Speiden

To Whom?

Who shall sing a song of the sea?
Who shall sing of waves breaking
in lines of silver on lonely shores?
Who shall shout of tides
that rise with boisterous energy? ...

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/two-poems-by-jeannette-speiden/>

A Variation on the Cow Killer Story

A Playlet by Bill Davis

Narrator: One day some visitors are walking in a garden.

First visitor: This is a remarkable garden. Look how delightfully everything is arranged.

Second visitor: I especially like the subtle contrasting colors of the blooming flowers. It's done so artistically.

Narrator: Overhearing them was the gardener himself...

Read More:

<http://americanvedantist.org/2014/articles/a-variation-on-the-cow-killer-story/>

Billdavis2ster@gmail.com

****Full Image Attribution:** "Abbey Gardens" by Jim-curtis - Own work. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Abbey_Gardens.jpg
#mediaviewer/File:Abbey_Gardens.jpg



"Abbey Gardens" by Jim-curtis - Own work.
See Full Attribution**

A Poem by Dillon Ross

Wherever I am
I need not a map
for I am right where I ought to be
Either on my way
Or lost at sea...

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/a-poem-by-dillon-ross/>

First Light

by Russell Atkinson

The spirit of life itself, you come with each new day's rebirth,
gentler than snow flakes drifting, silent as smoke, slower than the glacier creeps,
inevitable as gravity or moments, you seep
at each new day's birth into my slow waking...

Read More: <http://americanvedantist.org/2014/poems/first-light/>

THEAKO@WESTNET.COM.AU

About American Vedantist

As a Vedanta magazine, we are committed to:

- Stimulating inner growth through shared devotion to the ideals and practice of Vedanta
- Encouraging critical discussion among Vedantists about how inner and outer growth can be achieved
- Exploring new ways in which Vedanta can be expressed in a Western cultural context
- Networking through all available means of communication with Vedantists in the United States and other countries, and
- Facilitating the establishment of grass roots Vedanta groups and social service projects.

Participate

We invite our readers to join with *American Vedantist* in these endeavors. Please send us articles, poems, songs, letters to the editor, ideas for action programs and other suggestions for achieving our goals. For more information see our [Contact & Submissions page](#).

You may also participate by commenting on our [articles](#) or sharing your thoughts in our [Reader's Forum](#) section. All comments are moderated.