

# Clarity

(In Search of Clarity)

**John O'Reilly**

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Dedicated to,  
with regards for:

Max and Cath,  
i love you both

Roger Carter,  
the doors you helped me  
open inward

Allan Lance  
for your deliberations, your humour  
and a quote that has stayed with me...

Doug and Mike P,  
the trips  
the concept

Mike J,  
when no one else knew  
or knew how...

Robert M Pirsig,  
(author of: *Zen and the Art of  
Motorcycle Maintenance*)  
the fuel for this journey.

Richard Tipping  
(author of the poetry collections: *Soft Riots  
and Domestic Hardcore, among others*)  
for poetic inspiration.

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## *Contents*

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| NOSTALGIA.....      | 5  |
| WAREHOUSE.....      | 6  |
| FRIEND .....        | 7  |
| YIN-YANG .....      | 8  |
| ANARCHIST .....     | 13 |
| CIGARETTES.....     | 14 |
| SECURITY.....       | 15 |
| IMPLICATIONS.....   | 16 |
| BRICK.....          | 17 |
| FACES .....         | 18 |
| SCUM.....           | 19 |
| PENDULUM .....      | 20 |
| DRIVE.....          | 21 |
| REVOLUTION .....    | 22 |
| TRADITION .....     | 23 |
| THEORETICALLY ..... | 25 |
| DECEPTION .....     | 27 |
| INFINITE .....      | 30 |
| FIGHT.....          | 36 |
| RULER.....          | 38 |
| MICROCOSM.....      | 39 |
| LOCUS.....          | 40 |
| REFLECTION .....    | 43 |

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| FOCUS .....         | 44 |
| ESTEEM .....        | 45 |
| CHANCE.....         | 46 |
| BOUNDARY .....      | 47 |
| CO-STAR .....       | 50 |
| LOVE.....           | 51 |
| BUGS .....          | 52 |
| HELP.....           | 55 |
| PATH.....           | 57 |
| ASK .....           | 58 |
| HERO-ISM.....       | 59 |
| DEFINITION.....     | 62 |
| CONTROL .....       | 70 |
| PHILOSOPHY.....     | 71 |
| ENDS .....          | 72 |
| RESPONSIBILITY..... | 73 |
| FENCE.....          | 74 |
| TRIP .....          | 75 |
| YOU.....            | 78 |
| IMAGE .....         | 80 |
| PARENTS .....       | 81 |
| CONFLICT .....      | 82 |
| ART .....           | 83 |
| YIN .....           | 84 |
| OWNING .....        | 85 |
| ILLUSION .....      | 86 |

# *NOSTALGIA*

back paddock  
bothered only by wind

a cabin, galvanised  
roof, brick chimney,  
pioneer woods,  
mourning abandonment  
through timber reeds,  
and around doors  
and windows

rabbit scurries,  
and lizards squeeze  
down shattered timbers

back paddock,  
nostalgia is forgotten

# *WAREHOUSE*

More isles  
of indigestible  
groceries.

Charmed by security  
smothered by  
corn flakes  
blinded by  
booze  
bound by  
bread  
life long milk.

Morning tea,  
day off tomorrow.

# *FRIEND*

rain mist  
hanging low over the river  
a friend  
pouring over the dam

no expectations  
sunday drive with  
no rectangles  
a friend  
winding down

music of flowing water  
and poetry of trees

# *YIN-YANG*

## ONE

Writing you off with  
one statement,  
    a mere thought  
    for the moment  
destined to be  
smashed in two  
by an atomic  
blast  
and wonder why cigarettes  
give with open arms-  
pleasure with one,  
and  
death  
with the other

greed hates god  
hates  
but yin

must  
die  
without yang,

as sugar would be more valuable  
than jewels  
    if not for plaque  
and insulin issues.

## TWO

People screaming  
about and out  
in the streets  
    many rush their  
    predictable programs  
and for all the  
god,  
greed  
must hold its own  
and grow like mildew  
in damp unprotected corners  
taking unmonitored,  
    maljustified tolls

prejudicing the wealth  
of jungle / desert gold,  
as so too do they,

letting television creep  
up behind us all and  
    blow  
        the  
            hell  
        out  
    of  
    our / its own  
    asserts.

## THREE

For those still wandering about...  
cockroaches are pest and protein too,

nothing is unreachable  
nothing alone is invaluable.

# *ANARCHIST*

The anarchist (pausing on the porch in the morning chill, pondering over the greed and the self-indulgence and selfishness and blindness born out of innecessity, and lacking the purpose and means to act) tolerates the present western culture.

# *CIGARETTES*

and she walked  
the streets  
    mind fatigued  
    from study  
cigarette plays its  
meditatory role  
yet  
with scientific miracles  
the state of  
    the world  
remains untouched

unable to throw a  
smoker's addiction;  
she realized why...

# *SECURITY*

plastic video cosmology  
mesmerising fluorescent colour  
texture and fast food art  
Freud's Id and contraception  
materialistic wealth and  
energy abuse

drugs  
sex  
and  
rock 'n' roll

or  
find faith in...

order up  
some  
security

# *IMPLICATIONS*

evening port  
and open-hearth  
fire

melody of rain  
on the window  
    lovers touch  
reaches out...

    / implications  
were never  
    brought home

no  
one  
    left  
    to write  
        tomorrow's  
headlines

# *BRICK*

another brick  
for the 80 minute  
circumnavigation of the world  
nuclear fusion  
and the laser age,  
the unproven, incomplete  
implications of Einstein;

another brick  
for which human tendency  
lacks responsibility,

another brick  
through the living-room  
window.

# *FACES*

Some faces  
are reinforced with concrete  
persecute intent  
suffer only earthquakes

Some faces  
are bill boarded shells  
inviting intent  
and emptying the contents  
of the heart

Some faces  
are old log cabins  
uncarved by intent  
offering friendly welcomes  
with placid natural setting

And some faces  
are set in natural forests  
accepting soft intent  
offering fruits of the land  
and the love of a quiet mind.

# *SCUM*

watch my well meaning  
soul  
offer thoughts of  
selfish attitude

scum!

caught in the act.

but what recompense  
is there  
for the victim?

"sorry" offers insult for injury  
second-hand haloes  
are worthless when  
they're  
plastic

# *PENDULUM*

spates of lonely  
depression,

then  
a deliberation egg  
    baring a chirpy, alive  
and inspired chicken

focused purpose for the void  
and a search  
    for a clarity  
    of the uncertain

# *DRIVE*

sunday drive  
native forest  
chatter of birds  
the play of fauna

monday drive  
whining motors  
18 wheels  
desecrated with pine

# *REVOLUTION*

Armoured with a clarity  
political speech rhythm  
been there

considered that  
your garbage pail  
is raided

spewed back  
by juke-box messiahs

switched off like  
a winging child  
(inaccurate concept / poorly delivered)

though,  
the pied piper has bought  
an electric guitar  
and demands establishment  
justice

# *TRADITION*

a landscape  
stabilised  
by the  
shaping  
of centuries,

needing all  
of natural  
might  
to shift  
unstable  
misplacements

mountains streams  
eternally working;  
shifting  
and  
reorganising,

in slow  
time tested  
ritual;

e x p l o s i v e  
radical upheaval, may  
only result in  
senseless instability.

# *THEORETICALLY*

No theoretical chemistry  
how's the car we won  
the football on saturday  
countdown disco was  
dead got a girlfriend with  
no theoretical chemistry  
changed over the gear box  
twenty nill scored  
two tries hate this  
job training tonight  
been bunting lately no  
theoretical chemistry in  
lotto tonight won't come  
to work tuesday going  
interstate for  
holidays watch tv the  
guy's a jack got  
booked changed over  
the gearbox converted  
the tries married no

theoretical chemistry and  
got drunk last night  
won twenty bucks all alone  
chatted up a chick  
with no theoretical chemistry  
and put on extractors  
got sent off I empathise  
that chick's got a great  
bust his face I did intense  
went to the drive in and  
saw no theoretical chemistry  
no philosophy no I changed  
over the gear box.

# *DECEPTION*

thought is sadly  
fraught with  
deception

senses seeing  
the kiss of  
horizon rail lines

the fallacy  
of strict values  
unchecked devotion to  
colours, textures  
and emotive  
appearance

ill  
us  
ive  
prejudice  
only the open mind  
has hope of shaking

\*\*\*\*\*

she says 'car'  
a four wheeled  
metallic mechanical  
devise of transport...!?

and 'dog'  
a 4 legged  
hairy creature...!?

and 'god'  
who's god?

the deception is the word

\*\*\*\*\*

deception begins at the senses  
(as sticks bend in water)

in emotion  
(as anger is blind)

in a lack of experience  
(as putting a hand on the stove at 3)

in blind acceptance of 'truth'  
in stringent values  
(as 2000 years of Euclid worship)  
(as love is blind)

in attitudes  
(as hating dogs for one dog's bite)

# *INFINITE*

"If we go through life  
and then there's nothing  
at the end

        a void;  
        life  
        laughter  
conversation  
then nothing,  
then it's just a horrible cosmic joke"  
Allan said...

discussing religion;  
logic supports  
infinite higher orders

heat, motion  
sound, potential  
magnetics / electrics  
mass

leaves implications for energy conservation.

\*\*\*\*\*

finite body  
with finite memory

and like the mixing  
of oil on water

one can only hope  
to find a molecule  
on the interface  
between finite and infinite

\*\*\*\*\*

finite cognition  
fails with the likes of :

a world population  
a history of mutilation  
total world currency  
life in utopia  
digital time  
numbers of pretty girls  
infinite parallel lines  
exploding a world 17 times  
variables in emotive music  
an infinite order  
a finite universe  
spatial evolution  
world starvation  
human oppression  
atoms in a mole  
creation of energy  
chickens consumed in a week

\*\*\*\*\*

though if,  
in accordance with Cantor :

$2N$  = existence time of infinite  
higher orders

$N$  = an infinite time of human  
thought

and assuming :

1. the existence of infinite higher orders,
2. that progressive human thought results in the accumulation of truths,
3. that human thought will continue infinitely, and
4. that Cantor found truth,

then :

$$2N = N$$

\*\*\*\*\*

further  
one life is a finite segment  
of infinite points  
able to be corresponded 1:1  
with infinite segments

thus suggesting  
that the likelihood  
of a given  
individual reaching  
infinite truth in  
one lifetime,  
may be a  
possibility...

\*\*\*\*\*

heavenly faith  
succumbs a little  
to deduction,  
    induction  
        experiment

corrupted church  
persists with instilling  
    fear  
        faith  
and beliefs born  
of human ideology  
truth!?

though  
inadequate human senses  
squirming rulers  
inaccurate watches  
an uncertain universe  
and metaphysical flaws

offer little more promise /  
truth

# *FIGHT*

I feel the  
weary

like labourer's calluses

wearing

the years  
could give

although

empty  
    laundries  
        only face  
different stains

with the machine  
already clogged  
with drive  
and feeling  
feeling tired

# *RULER*

with  
western aspect

the sunlight  
that pours  
out /  
    fading the  
    untouched page

lightening scales  
bring their own weight

otherwise  
redirected

poetic inspiration  
measures up  
as some kind  
of ruler

# *MICROCOSM*

driven to  
continental drift  
in search of  
some direction  
or cure  
    masked by  
    symptom relief

cosmos magicians  
    direct all  
    their focus  
        out w a r d

an odd hundred  
metaphysicists  
unemployed /  
    may well have  
    overlooked some  
    ancient principle

# *LOCUS*

the locus  
has been a  
rod about a  
point

a jolt  
maybe the  
point

is

transform  
the co-ordinates,  
but if Reimann  
has his way

any                    on the surface  
path            nowhere  
         leads

crawl  
down  
the  
rod /

at 10  
you received

I drew  
envy

and competitive shapes

alien landscapes

and non-Freiren  
worlds /

uncertainty is important,  
clarity, awareness;  
and cause...

has its  
own locus

# *REFLECTION*

we painted the  
chalkboard silver

reflected  
on  
lovers, friends  
and  
reflections

and  
spectral l i n e s  
within

# *FOCUS*

without day  
there cannot be night

there is theory  
iff there is experiment

and focus must be both

within  
and  
without

# *ESTEEM*

where is all that  
that you have  
to offer

all of your beauty

bewitched with fear

eluded  
and bricked out

and so

imprisoned within

# *CHANCE*

remove the  
function limits...

droughts  
floods  
and pests

but stuff the fear

some chance  
is better than  
no chance  
at all...

# *BOUNDARY*

green

growing

drying out  
to compost

rain  
drops

dying  
streams into  
atmospheric  
regeneration

death cycles  
eternal

in garden  
    quiet  
        acceptance

atoms  
living on

qi (*chi*)  
soul

cosmic cycles

materialising  
    the abstract  
is a  
murder  
of the mind

a denial  
of being,

conceptualising  
    god...

is beyond  
our  
boundaries

\*\*\*\*\*

but  
as  
oil sits on water  
conscious  
on unconscious  
finite on infinite

individuals  
can still obtain  
short-stay  
visas

# *CO-STAR*

that of  
opposites  
in continuum  
as focus  
is...

only the  
co-star

in the  
perception  
of whole

yin  
and  
yang

may just be points  
of non-Euclidean  
reference

# LOVE

shifting  
down  
a spectra of colour

through  
the  
emotions of mind

and yet

there  
can  
still  
be  
value /  
    belonging

love  
is not  
an emotion

# *BUGS*

Zeno's paradoxes  
and Cantor  
assimilate  
    and what  
about the  
washing  
infinite set  
1:1 correspondence  
letters unwritten  
and unresolved  
controversy  
Hilbert said  
and what did  
a friend want me  
to bring  
students and  
Zeno's paradoxes  
language and  
comprehension

chatter  
    chatter  
        chatter  
plug it!

Dichotomy  
infinitely divisible  
coffee  
and achilles  
the rabbit  
with the heel  
and  
chatter  
bug bug  
chatter  
Arrow  
and  
Stadium  
trains  
Einstein  
relativity  
frames and  
move the  
sprinkler

assimilate  
switch on  
awareness  
indivisibility  
more input  
and  
chatter

switch off  
assimilation  
switch on  
awareness  
magpies on  
the lawn  
and bugs  
on the  
brain

why?

# *HELP*

paper credentials  
chains  
to

paper worlds

paper money  
paper jobs  
paper shuffle  
paper pa per  
paper  
god

he calls

no paper

flushed away

and that of birds  
is not of books  
but of birds

and in flight  
is how we  
learn  
about birds

they are not  
of paper

only they  
can help  
you help  
/ know

them

# *PATH*

accusation  
irritation  
and insult  
without  
frustration  
and reaction  
but with  
contemplation

*ASK*

why is it  
that preaching  
leaves little  
dent

what is it  
that makes  
you think?

think again...

ask a brick...

# *HERO-ISM*

ego  
infatuation  
junk sex  
destroying love  
competitive  
power and  
struggles  
of rank  
pop-song love  
inflation of  
self-importance  
alienation  
judgements  
impressions  
make-up  
fashions  
fads  
mimicry

heroes on  
heroes  
'rock' religions  
scientific  
pedestals  
'compassion'  
in churches  
of architectural  
glory  
knights in  
shiny armour  
damsels in  
distress  
quality loss  
plastic shop fronts  
plastic faces  
elevator  
appearances  
prejudice  
in t.v. /  
popular  
literature

and the  
message  
stated /  
    conditioned  
without question;

with  
    excesses  
of yang

reality mythos

who am I to preach?

# *DEFINITION*

## PREJUDICE

'pre' is of 'before'  
'judge' is of thought  
biased or otherwise  
relative  
of peers  
of standards  
of condition

'pre-judgement' is of you  
before  
you know me /  
them

\*\*\*\*\*

why all the hatred of  
fat people, and  
plain people,  
people of other  
races and  
agendas and  
gender, and  
    , and  
    , and  
answerless, and  
undefended  
(like an overlap on the wing)

where's all that  
anglo-saxon, judaeo-christian  
manliness now?

we've all rated the faces of everyone,  
rated the bodies  
rated the stereotypes  
of the character

and with a glimmer or more  
of (subjectively judged) threat,  
or (with an apparent unjustified  
claim to) superiority

we hate  
hate and prejudice them  
to maintain our self-esteem / ego  
at all cost...

a living ambition.

\*\*\*\*\*

QUALITY

is from Pirsig

is not of classical  
nor of romantic

but that which  
fuses the two

the object  
with its subject

undefined  
Zen  
Stephanos  
called it  
'randomness'

the gold  
in creativity

\*\*\*\*\*

# LOVE

is not of give or take  
nor of ownership  
or value  
or need

not of emotion  
or romantics  
not of reason  
or classics

but of quality

\*\*\*\*\*

# TRUTH

is of circular definition  
of facts  
of reality  
of logic and proof

all of truth

does truth exist?

definition defines the question

which truth  
is truth?

is truth absolute?

define absolute

\*\*\*\*\*

## REASON

which comes first  
sense or 'a priori'  
axiom or logic  
gravity or newton

this egg  
this chicken

is reason a  
measure of truth?

\*\*\*\*\*

## MEMORY

minutes  
into hours

empty

the days

reflection  
on empty  
memory

short week

memory scribes  
on casual rates

# *CONTROL*

lost without  
an alien within

gumption munchers

reflective,

without on within  
within on without

bugs  
hang-ups  
setbacks  
sit down  
set out  
knock down  
knocked out of control

# *PHILOSOPHY*

said to be  
between  
science and religion

like Descartes?

there is mind  
and  
there is body

philosophy may well be what  
joins the two

*ENDS*

grammar

lions exist

fred's fat

I'm hopeless

ends

highways

s

e

that end

c

a

in irrational

l

p

# *RESPONSIBILITY*

directed by you,

switch in escape mode

drugs

alcohol

ties of dependence

attack punctuated speech

social deviance

judgements

and

rejections

words of ends

'i'm insecure'

an avoid of responsibility

'i can't change!'

can you?

# *FENCE*

one side

or the other

make

pick

your      your  
choice

your  
team

even sitting on...

is still a decision

apathy

someone provided the concept

and everyone tied themselves  
to a fence...

# *TRIP*

of travellers  
O/S

and of  
addictions

direction with  
inherent positivity

goals bring  
ends /  
        voids  
        inherent depression

        the climax  
        the end  
may not occur  
                in harmony with  
the prescribed conclusion

(prior, during or even post-event)

expectation need not align  
with the precepts

priorities need not align  
with the path taken

\*\*\*\*\*

what of corn flakes  
for want of philosophy

the sceptic  
can be saved

all based on nothing

the trip

life

defined by temperament  
governed by homoeostasis  
influenced by emotive status

'truth' is a human construct  
'truth' may be just a disposable lighter

look around...

who's concerned?

it's all in a day's trip...

*YOU*

the million  
    marketed  
        texts

for     you  
        you  
for     you

to know you  
to be you  
to love  
    you  
by you

is based upon  
so few principles,

too hard  
too young  
    maybe  
too arrogant

for  
guilt is often resentment  
sorrow is often self-pity  
rejection is often envy  
fear is often pre-judgement

and we are often weak,

tell me about love...

# *IMAGE*

medium of transfer

poetry

my words  
your image

# *PARENTS*

their language

spoken  
or  
otherwise

is our inheritance

# *CONFLICT*

with its avoidance /  
rejection

that which  
is feared

is self-generated

the truth is knocking...

let it in

let yourself in...

*ART*

wall sketch

what does it mean?

what does it matter?

my sketch

your image  
your quality

insert direction  
let's;  
switch on the video

*YIN*

whose problem is it?

he asks

he

asks

he

asks

who asks

who's for

courtesy

care and

consideration

asks

who asks

he

whose

problem

is it?

# *OWNING*

owning my stuff,

responsible for my

controlling my

'I' statements

my values

my feelings

my personal meaning

presently,

my trip

# *ILLUSION*

of personal pedestals

of peaks of self-awareness  
of self-acceptance

but illusions,

clarity is no more  
a fixture  
than the rain

moving on

been there  
knowing that

of balance  
of continuums  
of being human  
of quality