

# Poems

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## Jury 1

Are you still trying to Reinvent the steel?  
Presaging by decades what was to become  
common practice by the 1990s,  
the old Iraqi saying He lingers like...

English colonization was strictly by-the-book.  
But what are the consequences for a society  
with a worldview that truth is multiple-choice?  
Quoting solo isn't easy, but it can be done...  
like a fist in a velvet glove —  
many will fight to the death in heated debates.

Ask yourself: Do I really want to mark the earth  
with ruin to be called number two?  
Instead of storming off and pouting,  
your credit card company  
or state consumer affairs department  
is reinforced by pharmaceutical ads that say,  
"except with our little pill ..."

You, living in a democracy,  
may choose something less upper-crusty  
when greeting well-wishers  
along your parade route:  
Destroy the local knowledge system  
and thousands of years of time-tested data are gone.

Bill Morgan  
04/24/03

## Jury 2

Before you begin improvising  
"On my honor, I do solemnly pledge  
to be trustworthy, helpful, friendly, courteous,  
kind, obedient, cheerful and brave,"  
it would be a good idea  
to absorb the appropriate " doors of Perception" —  
hinting that enlightenment may be available  
only to those who stop looking.

We are left to wonder if the "space of flows"  
fill up things yet take no space.  
Who is able to wipe off what is written ... on the forehead?  
... has simply become Names to avoid:  
The complete Book of Names,  
Over Thousands Of Names,  
Their History And Significance.  
You'll thank God this isn't your family.

Keeping yourself in the dark  
in the event of being hopelessly stranded,  
then as now, survivors in an environment  
with no groundwater,  
by soulful dynamics  
deft stage doors  
a bottomless container.

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