Existential Baptism

QUICK!

Use your intelligence
Your **mind** is tired
Your **drive** is hungry
You are hungry

Greedy for the next piece of knowledge
Droplets **of memories** d a n c e with your pages
This is the result, Frankenstein's creation

Rip off the skin
Unleash layers of the eraser
Mind **lock** your psyche

Are you mad at how I turned out?
How I still exist?

I was never baptized in your waters
I have **channeled energy** beyond your wildest dreams
Like the avatar did

I have breathed the ashes of **the phoenix** and **spit out doves**
I eat miracles for breakfast
Save those facts for your memories

Watch what you regurgitate back to me
For you shall not incinerate me
After all, I was baptized in fire
And I walked out a man on a mission

Nick Paleologos

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Nicholas Paleologos is a poet, spoken-word artist, host, and cosplayer who lives in New Jersey. Since 2020 he has performed online and in-person open mics including the Nuyorican Poets Café. He was featured at the NYC Poetry Festival in 2021 and 2022. He hosts a bi-weekly open-mic and workshop called Write to the Mic with The Word is Write. He also has facilitated workshops with ¡OYE! Group, Tumblewords Project and Phynnecabulary. He has worked on and contributed to three anthologies: Quaranzine, I Can't Breathe, & Love Letters to Gaia. His first book "Ad Versus Reaction" is available for purchase through Read or Green Books. Follow Nick on FB: Nick Paleologos Instagram @therealnickp. You can also donate to his cashapp: $the1realnickp, venmo: ngp12389 or PayPal: therealnickp