Platitudes

you never asked for my advice
but i'm going to give it to you anyway

if a girl likes you
they will leave something with you
and use it as an excuse to see you again

don't look back unless it's to learn from your mistakes
learn to memorize your own blueprints, otherwise
you'll get a stiff neck and trip over your own carpentry

blow your own horn
no one else will

learn an instrument, any instrument, and play the blues
make up your own scale and measure greatness by it

listen
you never know who may be your messiah
or who will be your next lover, soul-mate, friend, or confidant
even if you already have these things

if you don't know what to say, often,
your eyes will have the necessary vocabulary

it's okay, it's just a ride

don't take yourself too seriously
none of us get out alive

this world was not gifted to us by our ancestors
it was loaned to us by our children
try to pass it on in a better way than you found it

raise lots of smart, caring, rebellious, well-read, children
the idiots are all breeding and we're falling behind

learn a skill that will be useful in zombie apocalypse
no one's going to need your autobiography in verse
it will be the last thing on their mind while
fending off the Undead Hordes

put trust in science
put faith in spirituality
question religion
fend off asceticism and samsara
with equal ferocity

get tattoos
pierce strange places
your body is a temple
decorate it

avoid pain-killers
but do drugs
know your limits
avoid addiction
be honest with yourself
ethnogens are sacred
they should be treated like gods
humans are also sacred

if you have to medicate your existential crisis
realize that it's just temporarily sedated
it will greet you at the end of the tunnel

don't be too proud to ask for help
even the Goliath crumbled into the sea
in it's mute pride, it lays there still

hearts never break
they just get bruised
or spasm in fits of fibrillation
that's when the fun begins

do mental acrobatics
then walk a tightrope

run away and join the circus

see the world
the travel channel doesn't count

go hungry on purpose
eat food you've never tried before
be aware of what you're eating
life feeds on life

learn to grow food
that used to be a law
prove that you are
planning to stick around

dye your hair
shave your head
ride a skateboard at any age
a wise man once said
"hey gabba gabba hey"

kill your television
smash your radio
see a play or opera
foster local musicians
open your home
buy from local artists

learn to fly

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Shae Sveniker (25) was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, is an artistic autodidact, apprentice samurai of modern medicine, vegan in accordance with the Tao, meditative post-structuralist, pro-psychoactive student-sage seeking crazy wisdom. In a past life he was the slam master for Salt City Slam (2004-2008) in Salt Lake City, UT. It's southern California in 2010; palm trees and blue skies really aren't all that bad.

Shae Sveniker