

THOUGHTS AND FEARS

What is it... where am I... grass in my mouth... don't remember what happened... why am I here tall grass around me all green so much sky above... it dazzles... I don't remember anything... can't move why I can't move... head hurts so much and I can't move can't feel arms and legs... what the fuck happened?

I lower eyes struggling against the glare... my leg is down there... the right one maybe... it's bent wrong it shouldn't be like that... crooked stuck inside the bike wheel... should be spokes there instead there's a piece of the leg... looks like the ankle and shouldn't be there... the spokes are snapped there's blood... a spoke stuck in the flesh and blood drips out... I close my eyes deep breath I try again to move my head my arms my hands my legs. Nothing moves I'm paralyzed.

A flash: I pedal downhill there is a curve a car drawing in to overtake brakes screeching something hits me hard and I fly up the bike flies with me.

I clearly remember the flight moment but not the fall... was in the air and did a backflip then I don't remember anything else... must have passed out.

I don't move though and can't feel my legs. Try to look down again, the spoke still stuck in my ankle the blood coming out slowly now... I am INTO the frame all twisted up, next to my head I feel the saddle... the pedal should be under me, on my back... maybe it's IN my back and that's why I'm not moving.

The spine's gone, maybe. Remember a movie some time ago when something like this happened. A guy broke his spine crashing violently against a sharp rock... what movie was I don't remember.

Feel a sudden liquid warmth in my groin... peeing my pants... head about to burst can't keep my eyes open still peeing my pants. Listening to a car rumble passing by driving away. I have to be calm...calm.

In a way what's happening is ridiculous. Yesterday was the last working day after 44 years. Today, first day of my new life as a retiree, I stand here alone, hurled to the ground, wet with blood and piss, no one can see me no one knows I am behind this green wall, paralyzed from the head down. I stand here don't know what to do.

Two alternatives... die here in a while, bleeding out or, if someone finds me, I might make it to the hospital, live for a few more years, maybe paralyzed... bound to the mercy of those close to me. Nice prospects.

A jackhammer drilling into my temples tum tum tum ... I'd put a hand over my eyes to protect from the heat and the glare tum tum tum ... I have to stay calm.

For a few years now, images of death, of my death, would appear every now and then ... I'm old, maybe it's a normal thing ... just that I never envisioned death this way.

I imagined something farther back in time, much farther away, serene ... and calm.
I saw myself in bed, embraced by her, a chaste old couple still body to body, my chest on her back, our legs still entwined as in the distant days of sexual passion.
And I could imagine myself waking up late at night, feeling a sudden ache, heart slowing its beats, vision blurring, body losing strength with each passing moment.
In my fantasies, however, I saw myself quiet, quietly coming to terms with death.
One last weak embrace of love and then... goodbye.

A truck has passed by now... there's nothing left on the road from the accident, can it be?... a piece of the bike or the car that slammed me here... I wouldn't want to die like this, such a stupid pointless death... I'd like a different ending... I'd like an ending with love, please, just a bit of love.
I have to remain calm.