

# A Woman is a Poem

by [Justin Wong](#) (March 2024)



Lady in White, by Thomas Dewing, 1901

There she is:  
Presence defined by word  
Space interrupted by form  
Letters mirroring flesh  
Syllables graceful as steps,  
Imperceptible rhythm  
Voice severed by silence.

Here she is: an essence  
Reality beneath the appearance  
Meaning outside the word  
Existence beyond matter  
Psyche within sound.

The poem is:  
The germ of inspiration  
Nursed in inscription;  
The flower of imagination  
Sunned in studium.

It need not matter what it is:  
The smoke-filled metropolis—sumptuous underworld,  
Or the abandoned Elysium in a blossomed field,  
The illumined moon from its firmamental heights,  
Or the mysterious fortuity and grace of beauty: a woman.

Underlying essence,  
The poem, an afterthought  
Before experience is sonified into word,  
Or emotion transposed to a pulse,  
Before inspiration is visible in form,  
Or the world transfigures into meaning.

Underlying essence,  
The poem, a forethought  
Before all is made in the mould of a book,  
Or reality, an omen told in meter,

Before vision becomes historicised,  
Or beauty assumes a flesh that bleeds.

The poem:

Articulation of the ineffable;  
Credence to the unseeable;  
Word map of the world to be;  
Rock in an ocean of peril ... a woman.

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**Justin Wong** is originally from Wembley, though is presently based in the West Midlands. He has been passionate about the English language and literature since a young age. Previously, he lived in China working as an English teacher. His novel, *Millie's Dream*, is available [here](#).

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