

# The Shame of Poetry

by [G. Tod Slone](#) (September 2023)



*Classified Stupidity, Alexander Donskoi*

## The Shame of Poetry

*I am humbled by this opportunity to work in the service of poetry and to amplify poetry's ability to restore our humanity ...* –State Laureate Ada Limón, *Poets & Writers*

Few poets dare criticize  
Few even possess the capability  
Of criticizing the business of poetry  
The establishment control of poetry  
The taming, the safe-spacing of poetry  
The monetary machine of poetry  
The tenured academic poets  
The award-winning poets  
The state poets laureate  
The poet stifling of rare critical voices

Few poets can fathom why poetry only matters  
For poets whose pockets are filled with money,  
Who spew vacuous bullshit from privileged platforms,  
Who are worthy of the praise of hack politicians,  
And apparatchiks of the academic/literary establishment.

## Wanderlust

*Society can only thrive if humans ignore death's reality.*  
–P. Maudit

Exploring,  
lone traveling,  
road tripping  
seem to help  
    me a bit  
to forget  
the death quandary,  
    though just a bit,  
for around the corner  
stands the grim reaper  
–the annihilator, the obnubilator.

And so I shall explore, until I am no more...

## **The Poeticrats**

When poetry ends up  
with executive directors,  
chancellors, presidents,  
advertising and marketing directors,  
vice presidents of digital engagement,  
senior content editors,  
poets shop staff members,  
assistant content producers,  
membership and development coordinators.  
education ambassadors, and even  
senior vice presidents of finance and administration  
–each an actual title held by elite poeticrats  
    of the Academy of American Poets–,  
poetry becomes coopted and castrated,  
nothing more than an arm of the monied establishment.

An independent mind must wonder

how those bearing such apparatchik titles cannot perceive the insanity of it all and cannot bear an iota of criticism regarding their willful entrenchment

into that world of bureaucrat deniers.

Only immense egotists, greed for money, and recognition can explain it.

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*NB: Brooklyn Poets and other such organizations also boast an array of similar poeticrat titles.*

## **Northern Roads**

The northlands  
enable me  
to meld  
into time,  
to not be,  
while being,  
or to just be,  
while not being...

## **A Perfect Silence**

As it slowly drizzles,  
droplets ricochet  
upon the gray water  
from the dark sky above

As I alone swim on my back,  
there immersed,  
as a lone gull nearby dips its head  
silently over and again,

and the dense fog conceals the land beyond

If heaven there is, it is here now  
in the absence of humanity and nothing but silence.

## **The Dubious Designates of Emeritus Status**

One must question  
the deification of professors,  
in the same darkness as that of poets,  
  
for to finally arrive into that limelight,  
the deified must have mastered  
the fine art  
of turning the inevitable blind eye  
to the ineluctable intellectual corruption,  
ever feeding them with carrots and praise.

When truth-rude truth-counters academic administrators,  
and inevitably it will, the selected  
emeritus and laureate designates  
will have ineluctably chosen not truth...

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**G. Tod Slone**, PhD, lives on Cape Cod, where he was permanently banned in 2012 without warning or due process from Sturgis Library, one of the very oldest in the country. His civil rights were being denied because he was not permitted to attend any cultural or political events held at his neighborhood library. The only stated reason for the banning

was “for the safety of the staff and public,” yet he has no criminal record and has never made a threat. His real crime was that he challenged, in writing, the library’s “collection development” mission that stated “libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view.” His point of view was somehow not part of “all points of view.” In November 2022, he requested the library [rescind its banning decree](#), which it finally did. He is a dissident poet/writer/cartoonist and editor of [The American Dissident](#).

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