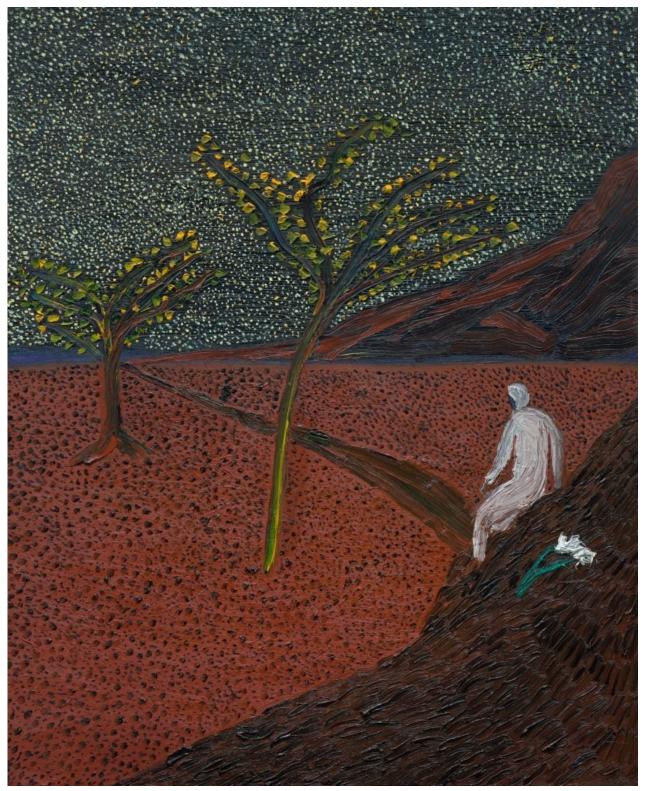
## The Venomous Peace

by John Grey (September 2024)



The West (Matthew Wong, 2017)

The message comes through. He's dying and I need to make my peace with him. It sounds more to me like he's dying and I need to broker a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. or find as cure for cancer, or climb Mount Everest barefoot, or win the men's triathlon at the Olympic games, or leap a tall building in a single bound, or top the New York Times Best Sellers List with a book of poetry, or land a job as CEO of a Fortune 500 company, or cross the Atlantic in a rowboat the list goes on and on though I am the only one working on it. Everyone else says, he's frail and he's regretful. So why not find me a frail, regretful, cobra.

I'll take it in hand. We'll kiss and make it up.

## Table of Contents

John Grey is an Australian poet, US resident, and has recently been published in New World Writing, North Dakota Quarterly, and Lost Pilots. His latest books, Between Two Fires, Covert, and Memory Outside the Head are available through Amazon. He has work upcoming in California Quarterly, Birmingham Arts Journal, La Presa, and Shot Glass Journal. Follow NER on Twitter <a>ONERIconoclast</a>