Viscera

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Viscera
Emiliano Lebron

Is anything written in verse poetry?
Many people think this is true
I happen to disagree
Though it is true that poetry is
indeed written in verse
Does being written in verse really
constitute a poem?
I think not!
Poetry is more than a bunch of
words written on paper
In a neat, tidy, and pretty format
Poetry is more than length and
width
It has to have substance
It has to have height
It has to have viscera.
There’s a fancy medical term
Viscera refers to the innards of the
abdominal cavity
Without those innards, we
wouldn’t be able to function
Our metabolism would be shot
And our tissues would start to rot
A putrefaction from lack of nutri-
tion.
Same goes for poetry
Poetry needs viscera
Without it, poetry is flat
Lifeless
Dull
Pointless
Poetry needs viscera
Poetry needs more than a nice
sound
It needs a purpose

It needs to have a message
It needs to have an interaction with the audience
It needs to be interesting
Maybe even entertaining
Plato gave an allegory about philosophy
That strangely applies here:
It seems that if one man finds the light of truth
A light outside the dark cave of reality
And if that man goes back to the public
And tells them of that light
They’ll all think he’s an idiot
Or a nut
Or both.
People rely on their perception
Their perception guides them
Anything contrary to their perception
Is either false
Or irrelevant
And that is to be expected.
Why?
What do people perceive when it comes to poetry?
A bunch of romantic flowery crap
Spewed on a piece of paper in verses
By a man who thinks he can impress women
With illiteracy.
An emo teen’s blood-red wrists
Dripping angst onto each verse
As he cries in his 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home
Because his bitch mom tells him to clean his room
Because his bitch teacher tells him to do his homework
Because he can’t deal with the pressures of...
I don’t know...existing
Claiming to be some nonconformist
When he’s really a whiny wuss.
The musings of a lazy pothead
Who sits in a café strumming on a guitar
Coming up with lyrics and verses for folk songs
That never make sense
Because he never had the ambitions or the brain capacity
To get a job!
The junior philosopher
Who, instead of actually studying philosophy
Decides to make it up himself
And writes haikus about his “faux-losophy”
Hoping to enlighten someone.
Unfortunately, though not surprisingly, they suck.
Haikus were never designed to be written in English.
Now you know why haikus aren’t taken seriously...
That is, if they’re not well-written.
(My legal team advised me to add this disclaimer.)
Misinformation in malpractice
Verses and verses and volumes of verses
Of pure unfiltered grade-A crap.
All of it very flat
Many teachers have said the following:
Great writers are also readers.
So if you want to write poetry,
Do yourself a favor:
Try reading some poetry
Before you put pen to paper
Get a sense for it
See the deeper meaning
And see the art
But mostly, and I stress mostly
See the viscera.
See that x-factor that gives the poem life
See how the words are used
See how the poet interacts with the audience
See what the poem represents

What idea is the poet trying to get across?
If I’ve said it once, I’ll say it again
Poetry needs viscera
It needs that third dimension
It needs a reason for its existence
So if you’re going to write it
Or you’re going to speak it
You better damn well mean it
Or don’t bother thinking about it.
It’s art
Be creative
But don’t be careless.