

# **SECOND POETRY BOOK**

(March 7 - September 10 1982)

**BY ALAN J. RUDNER**

jerusalem march 7/ 82

## MOTHER THERESA

the fear of pain  
is what we flee  
we flee in fright  
eternally

the pain in fact  
is oh so sweet  
though who'd believe  
a trick so neat  
that just below  
the line of fear  
the angels blow  
their trumpets clear

we clutch at love  
and strangle it  
that's fear again  
we're in the shit

we tell another  
what to do  
that's fear my friend  
i'm telling you

i say don't work to change a thing  
but try and act from love  
i say don't judge your fellow being  
remember what's above

the fear of pain though natural  
must cease for you to know the all  
that some call god  
and some call peace  
you drop your fear  
you are released

**WORDS**

we live in a world  
of words

god is before  
all words

## **DAUGHTER**

i am a cavalryman's daughter  
he rode to battle one last time  
i am a cavalryman's daughter  
everything i see  
i think is mine

## QUESTION

the question's always  
where you're going  
never where you are

the question's always  
will you love me  
should you travel far

those questions always  
pose themselves  
as if there's  
answers clear  
that subtle error  
no one sees  
blocks out the  
now & here

jerusalem march 18/ 82

## A BOY

i wish to tell a story  
a story oh so true  
it's true  
that you could look at it  
from many angles too

he was born among  
what they considered  
elite, upon a mountain  
until a town got built right there  
whose people wouldn't even count them

he loved his mother everyone  
but though he tried to have some fun  
the neighbours and the school people  
took him as bad or just a fool  
he would not submit to any rule

so there he was, so very young  
out of the house and on the run  
mingling with the toughs and rudes  
all alone, as he did brood  
at his young age it looked like failure  
he tried so hard  
he would be braver !

jerusalem march 20/ 82

## **CONSCIOUSNESS**

time literally does not exist  
all is existent now  
everything and everyone  
is in a particular place now  
and that now  
is ever pulsating  
giving particular  
subjectively received impressions  
forming up in individual worlds  
according to their  
level of consciousness.

fear and time are  
synonymous !

montreal march 25/ 82

## **GOODNESS**

goodness is  
just a trick  
so you can stop  
from getting sick !

for if you know  
the people's pain  
which often looks  
so very vain  
you see  
that just below it rests  
our common home  
the best of bests

**PATIENCE  
AND PERSEVERANCE**

you must push on with  
patience  
whatever that might mean

you must have patience  
but not forget  
the truth  
you once had seen

montreal march 27/ 82

**SURPRISED**

you'll be surprised to know  
that god  
isn't sentimental  
at all

no shit !

**STORY**

IT'S NOT JUST THE STORY  
OF YOU AND ME

IT'S THE STORY OF HUMANITY

montreal march 27/ 82

**DEATH OF GOD**

i want, want, want  
t 'is the  
death of god

want want want  
need need need  
bleed bleed bleed

## **LOVE**

can you love a black man

can you love a jew

can you love an alley cat

can you love me too

can you love the flowers

can you love the sun

can you love your enemy

when he's got you on the run

## **HOT AIR**

you must pretend  
that they exist  
although the fiction's clear

you must pretend that  
someone's there  
and not just some  
hot air

montreal march 30/ 82

**MINE**

my brother  
my son  
my lover  
my nun

my child  
my home  
my body  
my bone

you must recognize  
my possessions  
my prize

must not interfere  
with my dreams  
with my fear

**NOW - UNDERSTAND**

we now understand why  
people can't see

we now understand why  
people can't be

we now understand why  
people do kill

we now understand  
how the fear eats the will

montreal march 7/ 82

## REAP WHAT YOU SOW

it's never too late  
but it's also a fact  
you reap what you sow  
can't change the act  
once you've set it in motion  
any string of events  
will move to conclusion  
from the source of intent

like: if you wish to have money  
and also to love  
your mixed bag of tricks  
ain't as white as a dove  
the fear in the package  
will sure have its say  
like eating some shit  
that's mixed in the hay

should you really want peace  
you can't compromise  
must have faith in the lord  
who dispenses the prize  
keep the water as clean  
as a fresh mountain stream  
and stick to your aim  
in the midst of a dream

## **HELP**

you cannot do  
for another person  
what he must do  
for himself

it doesn't mean  
at all my friend  
that there's no such thing  
as help

**DING - DONG**

spend your money            < t h i s  
sell your bonds  
go out and live  
you ain't got long

learn to live                 < o r t h i s  
and  
learn to give  
don't kid yourself  
you ain't got long

learn to live and give       < o r t h i s  
ding dong

montreal april 4/ 82

## **PRISON**

take me from my prison they call  
take me from my prison - that's all

the bars unbending  
the walls are tall  
fear and violence  
one and all

take me from my prison  
though this food  
is all i know  
could this by chance  
be what they mean  
by 'reaping what you sow'

montreal april 6/ 82

## **TAIL WAGS THE DOG**

we work and save  
as money melts  
it seems so brave  
you want to shout

the freedom from financial stress  
is what it's all about we guess  
we see those flashy millionaires  
on t.v. sets with all their airs  
that's evidence we think  
they look so happy, in the pink

so happiness is what it's for  
but no one tells you anymore  
to love your neighbour, everyone  
just guard your money with a gun

t.v. is not like real life  
for sure the bible's closer  
death's just around the corner friend  
put that gun back in its holster

**SEE**

i can see your children  
i can see your maid  
i can see the employees  
i can see the hate

montreal april 13/ 82

## **LOW**

low as low as low can be  
hardly one drop  
of energy

close as close as close to death  
as anyone could  
ever be

body shakes and head is dull  
all people like an anchor be  
around my neck  
in dirty sea  
pulling pulling pulling me

we've been here before and did survive  
through god's will god knows why  
but this time  
where is there to go  
we've seen enough of life to know

montreal april 15/ 82

**DR. JUNG**

read Dr. Jung Dr. Jung today  
reminds me of Bennett  
same type i'd say

he knew all along  
there were flies in the ointment  
people's biggest concern  
was to make an appointment

he saw all the pain  
all the terror the rot  
and dug with his spade  
in the shit quite a lot

montreal april 20/ 82

(lunch with d.c.)

## THE CHILDREN

what about the children  
must they  
do it all again  
live their lives in fancy dreams  
just to find  
that in the end  
what they thought was real  
what they thought was right  
was just a lot of imitation  
of people they thought bright

is there not another way  
some essentials they might grasp  
get ready for a real world  
a new age  
that's coming fast

montreal april 21/ 82

## **RICH AND NEEDY**

come on my friends  
you've got to see  
insecurity grows  
right along with money

you are even afraid  
that your child is greedy  
not to mention your spouse  
or the neighbours that see  
you've got more than enough  
and your fear shows right through  
your body's so tense  
that you hardly can screw

and these four letter words  
and some of the five  
make you jump from your skin  
like a bee from a hive  
takes something like that  
to prove you're alive

come on my friends  
you've got to see  
insecurity grows  
right along with  
money

**PRETTY BABY**

pretty, pretty, pretty baby  
pretty baby, what you do

pretty pretty pretty baby  
do you also love me too

montreal may 5/ 82

## UNDERSTANDING

understanding is  
understanding of

what to do  
why to do and  
how to do

not about thinking  
about doing

this is what gurdjieff  
was teaching  
the what  
the why and  
the how

the philosophy  
the theory and  
the practice

montreal may 27/ 82

## **BRIBERY**

bribery baby  
that's what it's about  
no matter what  
you say or shout

do what i want  
and i'll give you some more  
bribery baby  
you're only a whore

god is inside first of all  
you must know  
but we'll make you forget  
we'll give you a show  
tell you what's good  
and tell you what's bad

bribery baby,  
it's you  
that's been had !

## **YEARS**

how many years  
have you wanted it

how many years  
you idiot

now is the time  
to feel good

who do you want  
to tell you  
you should

montreal may 27/ 82

## **ENOUGH**

there's never enough  
to cushion your fear

the more that you get  
your greed grows  
my dear

**D O**

and whom will you  
do what  
for

montreal june 3/ 82

**NOT NOT**

not later

not with someone else

not some other place

not outside yourself

montreal june 3/ 82

**M E**

what a b o u t m e  
a b o u t m e  
a b o u t m e

don't say you don't see  
you dummy you dummy

i need you much more  
than other fish in the sea  
and surely you know  
that i'm  
much more worthy

## **STREET CORNERS**

i've stood on  
the street corners  
of paris in france  
i've stood on the  
street corners  
in tokyo too

i've stood on the  
street corners  
with johannesburg whites  
with the blacks at their mines  
as they sharpened their knives

i've stood on the street corners  
of san francisco and l.a.  
i've stood on the street corners  
of berlin and bombay

i've stood on the street corners  
of beirut and madrid  
i pondered the newspapers

and who do they kid

montreal june 9/ 82

(four days into israeli war in lebanon)

## SOMBRE MONTREAL

the grey cement  
bleakness  
of a sombre montreal

lazy repetitiveness  
of the nothingness

fear of economic displacement  
gathers like a polluted  
Industrial fog

the choking nausea  
taken for granted  
in the sticky  
mystifying mist

without the sex starved children  
in their twenties thirties wet lipped  
sitting at their cafes  
the death agony would  
be more visible

without sport and wars on t.v.  
the boredom would kill

montreal june 11/ 82

**WE SAW**

we saw the dreams  
turn into nightmares

we saw the hope  
turn into fear

we saw the children  
turn into zombies

we saw the joy  
turn into tears

montreal june 13/ 82

## **PAY ATTENTION**

you pay attention  
to me  
they say

must pay, must pay  
pay attention  
must pay

not important for you  
to judge or say  
what's important  
just listen to me  
and pay and pay  
pay attention  
they say

montreal june 19/ 82

**IT'S QUITE  
ALRIGHT**

it's quite alright to lie & cheat  
and lie & cheat some more  
in this society everyone knows  
you're just a bloody whore

and if you're not  
to hell with you  
you don't fit in  
just who are you

who do you think  
you are they say  
you don't fit in  
you just won't play

play play ha ha  
play play hoo hoo  
we'll see you  
in the madhouse too

montreal june 22/ 82

(before flying to n.y.c.)

**IF YOU  
PRAY**

if you pray to god god god  
remember for god's sake  
your neighbour, whom you love or not  
is also part of the cake

if god created you my friend  
although you're hard to see  
as strange and awkward it may seem

he too created me

n.y.c. june 30/82

## TALK

we talk and talk and talk and talk  
and then we talk some more  
we hear another person's story  
how they tell the score

we make a comment  
here and there  
imagining their game  
hope against hope  
at the very least  
they're approximately sane

they do the same with patience  
giving 'benefit of doubt'  
wondering a little bit  
just what you're all about

can they use or benefit  
from your company  
maybe you've got money  
or some sincerity

what to take  
the good or bad  
as if they had a choice

an ear to hear their misery  
a soul to hear their voice

**FIRST OF ALL**

you're analysing everyone  
know just what they should do  
best see that you're first grounded  
  
and happy you're just you

hod hasharon, isreal. july 10/82

**HOW DO YOU  
DROP YOUR FEAR**

how do you  
drop your fear  
they say  
they say it must be done  
each day  
each hour minute sec  
it seems  
must flush it  
from the world of dreams

but what about tomorrow  
as demands are sure to come  
and what about the children  
and old age we're running from

who can deny necessity  
for the basics shelter food  
who in heaven's name my friend  
can criticize our mood

but still they go on saying  
it's fear that you must drop  
they say to love your neighbour  
appreciate your lot

hod hasharon, isreal. july 20/82

## YOU FEEL

we can see how you feel  
all alone all alone  
wondering wondering  
just why you were born

we can see how you feel  
on the face of this earth  
living this mystery  
this thing they call birth

\* 'happy birthday to you \$  
& we're born in a zoo !  
^ the kids seem to know it @  
# now we see it too ' \*

july 20/82

## **WE GUESSED**

we guessed how it was  
then we checked  
and it's true  
the american dream  
has dissolved  
boo hoo hoo

we're left with blank check books  
with pavement and glass  
with kids we can't speak to  
with cars without gas

oh my god oh my god  
what has happened to us  
where were we running  
why all the fuss

we guessed how it was  
then we checked  
and it's true  
the american dream  
has dissolved boo hoo hoo

isreal. july 20/82

(frieda visits safed with yael)

## ARE YOU

are you a christian  
is there love in your heart  
are you a christian  
or just talking smart

are you a moslem  
know allah the one  
or just playing mind games  
just having some fun

are you a jew  
are you  
are you

oh my god my dear man  
i'm no other  
than you

upper rosh pina israel

## **HIS STORY**

we get to hear his story  
and how his thinking works  
we get to know this person  
not less than those from books

we hear those things consistent  
the contradictions too  
we try to be as patient  
as we would with me or you

a man a man in real life  
a man like you and me  
a man a man in real life

not just some fine story

**DON'T HOLD**

don't hold that body  
quite so close  
let it love  
where need is most

most will try  
to hold their mate  
though holding always  
leads to hate

so, true love's giving  
what is needed  
have faith there's more  
if you should need it

upper rosh pina israel july 28/82

## **WHAT YOU SEE**

tell me what your picture's like  
of life, of company

tell me what your picture's like  
at breakfast, evening tea

tell me what your picture's like  
of business, family

tell me what your picture's like  
tell me what you see



(ruthi visits her mother in t.a.)

**LIVING DEAD**

i said  
we won't forget  
the  
living dead

i said that  
many years ago

oh ho

you said you wouldn't  
not forget  
the living dead  
a kind of  
debt

rosh pina israel aug 2/82

## PEACE FOR THE GALILEE

there's a war going on  
in lebanon  
the bombs and the planes  
sound just like a song

with a rat tat tat  
and a boom boom boom  
a swish swish swish  
and a zoom zoom zoom

we hear all this in the galilee  
as boys return, with their eyes bleary  
with a scary stare and a shaky knee  
they say the rat ta tat was indeed bloody

no one's very pleased you see  
that the world's turned into  
a war movie

with a rat tat tat  
and a boom boom boom  
a swish swish swish  
and a zoom zoom zoom

galilee aug 2/82

## **BOMBS**

as bombs are dropped on people  
folks, just like you and me

our mothers tell the children  
to brush their teeth and pee  
before they go to bed at night  
and bother nobody

in just a few short years you see

a soldier they can be

## **MONKEYS**

ever see

monkeys

in a zoo

monkey see

monkey do

**THE DRIVER'S SEAT IS  
AT THE EDGE OF DEATH**

you might not know it  
but sure it's true  
death might come  
and visit you  
at any moment  
in any place  
and send you flying off  
into space

so do be ready  
make your peace  
with each and every man  
you meet

you'd be surprised  
that you may see him  
in a place  
they call

eternity

rosh pina israel aug/82

(ruchi packs for 'new' house)

## **RUTHI**

up & down & back & forth  
round & round  
for all it's worth

pick it up & place it down  
check it out  
don't make a sound

huff & puff & push & pull

our life on earth  
is really full

upper rosh pina israel august 12/82

**KILLING**

they'd like to stop  
the killing

## **L I E S**

or - no one seems to be sick  
of the  
lies and manipulations

or - divorcee

hello mother  
how are you  
the kids are fine  
well, a little flu  
the boyfriend, well  
he's o.k. too  
doesn't know  
quite what to do  
but seems  
to like to screw

nu-uu  
what is new with you  
dear dear mom  
i love you so  
varicose veins and swollen eye

## **MONTY**

no matter how much keif we blow  
no matter how much rock we roll  
time given for creativity  
time taken for sense or levity

it's all there

**MATAN I**

you, dear father  
have faith in your son  
he won't run wild  
there is virtue in fun  
have patience have patience  
have patience dear man  
listen to his stories  
as hard as you can

his pictures are real  
though partial indeed  
just listen and hear  
what he says there's a need  
on his part that  
his father might hear  
how he sees things -

without judgement  
without fear

## **MATAN II**

ask your son's forgiveness  
ask it once again

ask your son's forgiveness  
ask it for your sins

ask your son's forgiveness  
for the violence  
ask your son's forgiveness  
discover love again through him

oh dear how we were so asleep  
how our anger did arise  
how the violence of society  
did blind us in the eyes

how the pressure of the daily cares  
did squeeze us here and there  
how our love turned into anguish  
though in fact we really care

**MATAN III**

though he's very much a little boy  
though he's very hard to see  
oh dear god do give us patience  
patience to observe, to see

let us not mistaken  
our own past and childhood  
and place it on our child  
and displace our love of good

h e l p !

end of august 82

**ONCE**

so once we see  
appreciation

once we see  
your love

galilee september 1/82

## **ALMOST FORGOT**

almost forgot  
yes, we almost forgot  
a war's going on  
the earth's  
a hot spot

what will the newspapers  
say of today  
we heard all the planes  
in the sky on their way

we heard of the yanks and the french  
in beirut  
we heard that the palestinians left  
rut tut tut

but awake my dear friend  
this is far from the end  
violent man has gone mad  
and is active again

yes we almost forgot  
yes we almost forgot  
a war's going on  
the earth's  
a hot spot

**NEXT STEP**

before you consider  
next step  
be sure  
you stand balanced  
where you are

**ANYONE**

anyone for  
god, good  
and universality

jerusalem september 7/82

**DESIRE**

the true path  
of desire

the single  
and only  
d e s i r e

## **HIGH WIRE**

the high wire  
is fastened

on one end  
pure love

at the other end  
pure contempt

## **GUILT**

guilt is a symptom  
of people who  
still live under  
the illusion  
that they  
can do