

Sigh in the Night

i know a lie but noone wants to hear it told
i've got a secret but still noone comes or goes
i know you're standing there and going insane again
you want me to eat some grass and clean up my 'trails

i know a tale and i have a part for you
i see the world the way you dream a dream for me
but time has a way of making everything so white
it smoothes out our lives and we just cry in the night.

i know a road but you don't want to go that way
i saw a man whose being was torn away
i know you wash your face and hide away your hands
we sit in this desert and we try to make amends

i know a lie but i will keep it to myself
i know a song and i will sing it all the same
but time has a way of making everything so white
it smoothes out our lives and we just sigh in the night.

c 1989 cem akas

The Fall of the Empire

it's what she did, and not what she said
her eyes remained when she walked away
he forced his memory to shut her out
but his fingers had a mind of their own

he played with the tigers and talked with the wind
and every night at midnight he cut his hair
each morning she plucked her eyebrows
she'd never thought it would happen this way.

he kissed the stamps on the letters he wrote
she tried to enter the dreams that he had
he would not use knives anymore
she held a rosary whenever she spoke

he never saw her on the street
a little bluebird stopped trying to fly
a ship would sink when she thought of him
but sail again when he cried at noon

it's what she did, and not what she said
she had a way of rolling a rock
he didn't cut the rose in the backyard
and let the turtles swim it all out

the dust on the books wondered aloud
whether this would be the year of the cat
would the rainbows quit their jobs
would the oceans give up their waves?

it's what he thought, and not what he did
he had a longing too good to be dead
her heart was so silent she fooled the stars
the moon gave up on working it out

he felt like a stone to be thrown away
she bathed in the rain
and when a tiger walked up to her
she realized what he finally did.

Five Times out of Four

you will never feel the sun warm upon your face
catch snowflakes with your mouth when it's winter-white
all the leaves will turn to brown and die at your feet
five times out of four you'll wish you didn't leave.

all the hands that you'll hold will be too cold to touch
all the books that you'll read will soon turn to dust
you will have your own cloud to rain upon you girl
five times out four you'll wish you didn't leave.

chorus: nine times out of eight you'll cry
you'll give the world just to have someone with you
but when you do it doesn't feel the way it ought to
and five times out of four that's all you get.

not a single sweet voice will fall upon your ears
not a kiss will be as lovely as the ones you miss
every lover you'll find will have an ace up his sleeve
five times out of four you'll wish you didn't leave.

when you come back you will find that everything is gone
gone will be the valleys where rivers used to run
there'll be no happiness to steal
five times out of four you'll wish you didn't leave.

chorus

c 1994 cem akaş

Catullus and His Three Ladies

she doesn't know what to do
with herself or with her time
she just drags along
she's still young but the way she walks grows old.

she likes to think that all the men
that she knows or has just met
would do anything to get into her pants
see the way she dances with the wolves.

chorus: it's a long day's journey into the night
she walks with the ghosts of the days in the sun
but she knows that Catullus is gone.
she looks at herself in the mirror, at her face and her eyes
she smiles her enchanting smile
but she knows that Catullus is gone.

she lives alone in her flat
in the classiest part of town
she only goes out to take a walk
her mother does her shopping while she reads.

the last time she had a crush
on a guy was years ago
in college, she doesn't remember his name
it was more the way he wrote than the way he looked

chorus

she got married at twenty-six
with this guy that she met
while riding her bicycle
she had second thoughts but didn't care.

made love with her ex-boyfriend
on the day of her wedding
she hated the moon for being so bright
she never looked back, never looked up.

chorus

c 1998 cem akaş

Time Is Hands

your voice comes through in the middle of the night
i remember the shyness of your smile
and i finally realize the love that i've found
clockwork life, time is hands.

do you know what it's like to be silent all the way
while there are millions of footnotes to say
to this loneliness that is total and waits all around
reach for the point, time is hands.

chorus: it works us into frames
the undertoad is there and it remains
pulling us down to the depths of the maze.

all i can do is to hope for your eyes
for a possible future with a probable past
but life on this lane is moving so fast
love is a cry, time is hands.

i listen to the peels of the time that is past
to the smoke coming up and standing still in the air
what goes up just has to come down
stay close to me, time is hands.

chorus

c 1989 cem akas

Hey, Hallelujah

every time i close my eyes i see you
and curse your memory
when love dies that's a sad story
but it's great, so great to be free.

chorus: hey hallelujah, hey hallelujah,
you're gone, you're gone away
hey hallelujah, hey hallelujah,
the world's such a great place to be.

there are so many people
to love and to be with
it's a waste to hold on to one soul
so much to live, so many places to go to
the wind is filling my sails.

ch.

i don't need your love anymore so it's alright
if your heart has no corner for me
when you went away the sun kept shining
but it's you i still long to see.

ch.

c 1997 cem akas

This Time Is Yours (lullaby for the unborn child)

don't go away
don't be ashamed
don't hide your laugh when you feel
running like a mountain stream
over shiny stones and you know

this life is yours
this place is yours
this time is yours if you can
make it bend the way you want
curve around the corners of the

things you hold on to
the love that fills you up
the joy of having people with you
coming through all the way
on this long and strange journey

don't be afraid
don't hide your tears
just take the risk of being
and the earth will be with you:
never mind what you'll be taught.

this time is yours.

c 1994 cem akas

At the Offbeat

i'm alone in the end, just as i was at the start
we shouldn't have hurried, should have been fast
and done everything, said every word as slow as can be,
as soft as can be, so as not to disturb the great weight.

our love faded away like a chalk mark in a rainstorm, a voice in the hall
but still we kept on trying there in the rain,
soaked to our souls, feeling the pain
hands reaching out - what can be done?

silence really does grow like a cancer in the middle of dangling conversations
and when we make love you don't smile anymore
"i know there is something wrong but i want to hold on to you," you say
through the dark, the dark, through the dark.

so we start over again, the feeling is right, poems come out
laughter filling the air, wrapping us up, a band playing dixie, double ball-time
i reach out for you, you reach out for me, and we walk through the green fields.

our love shining so bright like a chalk mark in a rainstorm, a voice in the hall
and yes, we keep on trying, there in the rain,
soaked to our souls, but feeling no pain.

the heart stops and it beats again, it will stop and then beat again
for as long as you'll know and darling we will survive
if we live and love through enough during the offbeat
we'll get to the beat, the beat, we'll get to the beat.

we will get to the beat
if we live, and love, through enough at the offbeat
at the offbeat.

c 1991 cem akas

Blind Man in the Distance

The sun is down, the birds have flown and the dice is cast
The mood is low, the moon is full and not a sound to be heard
The waterfall is dry, stars are shining so bright
The blind man in the distance bides his time.

The work is done, the dream is gone and the grass is brown
The tire is flat, the car is stalled, the rain is pouring down
Not a soul in sight, not a light to go by
The blind man in the distance bides his time.

The shadows on the wall begin a frightful dance
The mirror shows it all and gets a second chance
But it's not good enough, the waves are rising so high
The blind man in the distance bides his time.

The sky is red, the earth is hot and the wind is mad
The ocean cries, a promise flies and on a rock it lands
This is the end it seems, it took us so very long
The blind man in the distance loses his mind.

c 2018 cem akas

Some Nights

What good was the night
Back in Adam's time?
I don't know, I guess it was
Good for sleeping
And not to turn the bright day
Into dark
You're right, the nights are good for that, too
Now won't you go to sleep?

How many nights have been?
Much more than you can count.
And how many were the first people on earth?
Oh, I don't know
I guess just two
How many will the last people be?
More than you could ever count, I think.

Are we the last people?
No, they're still to come.
Then this night is not totally mine.
Some people have no night at all.
You'll have your night like everyone.
Sharing a night is difficult.

Why don't you go to sleep?
This night is too much for me.
Why don't you go to sleep?
This night is too much for me.

c 2013 cem akas