

## Direction

by lao *Wednesday, Jul 3 2013, 1:20pm*

international / poetry / post

a virgin sheet  
-- rice paper -  
waits, almost quivering  
in anticipation  
for the first stroke from  
my human hair brush  
soft, broad and fast

ritual objects of my craft  
are scattered about  
in reach

i move closer respecting,  
the unspoiled nature  
of that virgin sheet  
in its whiteness

if i alter its state it must  
be for the better, an improvement  
or i have betrayed myself  
the medium  
and failed my craft

i must honour the process  
of creation with the best of my ability  
the first stroke determines the final outcome  
it must be rehearsed endlessly in mind  
before physical expression,  
its course must be true  
otherwise an imperfection  
or perversion results  
and God knows there are far too many  
failures on this planet

the first determines the last  
and the nature in between --  
Obama's first executive order  
was a Drone strike that killed  
innocent women and children  
in Sovereign Pakistan  
there is nothing surprising  
in his subsequent criminal actions

the narrative was set by that first  
official act as a criminal  
President

i step (slowly) around the sheet  
appreciating its texture and  
subtle nuances  
all the while building up to  
that culminating movement  
designed to enhance,  
elevate existence  
and become an essential  
part of universal harmony

the sheet becomes a portal  
to a greater reality,  
my arm, wrist move  
harmoniously  
almost in slow motion  
but at speed to the onlooker

dancing strokes begin to  
take form  
on the medium  
capturing reality in  
its representations

a monk seated,  
ponders distant mountains  
semi-veiled in morning mist  
he sits serene  
a small bamboo grove  
behind him

a tiny wren watches from  
a sprig of bamboo

a narrative is created thru motion,  
the ending determined by  
the interruptions of flowing strokes,  
black ink on rice paper -  
so fragile

the wren moves and  
takes to the air

<http://jungledrum.hopto.org/news/story-674.html>

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Underground Oz Poetry. <http://ozpoetry.lingama.net/news/poem-402.html>

