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Deconstruction

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Deconstruction

It's in the quiet times
That you really feel ready to face the world.
The thousand tiny chinks in your armor

*—The modern fascination with relics of centuries gone by
Can be traced to a sense of dissatisfaction with the complexity of
The business of making a living in this world and
The price paid for today's luxuries, which practically necessitates
An increased involvement in outside affairs.*

Wrapped and subsumed in the folds of that eerie calm,
Spirited away from the world of mortal worries.
The serene invincibility—

*—The hubris-nemesis complex is said to be comprised of
The idea, feeling or pretense of godliness or ultimate power—
Which includes the notion that one is above worldly punishments and
law—
And the desire, sometimes vengeful, to confront, punish or defeat
An adversary seen to be responsible
Or that can itself be accused of hubris.*

With this you could take on the world,
(Pomogite pozhalusta por favor lüften s'il vous plaît qing ni se faz favor
xin per favore tafadhali bitte schön!)

*—Can the increased use of fragments of foreign languages be
Attributed to the sociocultural effects of globalization?*

*—That's certainly a possibility, Miss ____, but
What's your reasoning? Can you substantiate it?*

The myriads of pain, joy, suffering, ecstasy,
All your worries, all your troubles,
Strive for a staggering victory
Over that loose bundle of everything we call life

*—One of the interesting things about English is the varied etymology
Of many of her words; a much larger percentage
(compared to other languages) of which are borrowed
From other tongues, and the way in which there tend to be
Many more synonyms for adjectives, adverbs and the like
Than there are for nouns, some of them seemingly simple ones,
Such as "love" or "friend."*

And win, every time—
 Take it, hold on tight,
 Want to never let yourself lose it.

—Many believe that the extensive interest—
 "crackdown," if you will—
 In preserving rules of grammar that seem
 Obsolete in modern usage and a barrier to
 Comprehension, really,
 Is at least partially due to
 The influx of new words or new meanings attached to
 Old ones as the result of a change in the terms of their usage
 By society, out of either ignorance or convenience.

But in the sun and rain and chaos
 (in other words, the hustle and bustle and assorted commotion)
 It disappears, treacherously like mist after the rain,
 Fresh snow dying in the warmth of spring,
 Dew on leaves of grass
 And all the other beautiful things.

—Note, class, the multiple use of similes based on water
 To signify a sense of transient beauty.
 Does anyone have any thoughts on why this is?
 On why water imagery is so associated with the idea of aesthetic
 Beauty and tranquility?

—Is it because water shines when light reflects off it?
 —An interesting response.
 Any other takers? None? Maybe on why water's transience is
 Linked to the sun, which is itself traditionally thought of
 As a positive symbol? Why it is considered negative in this context?
 Nobody?

Where did it go, your deeper meaning?
 Is it something that you found?
 Or has it been there all along?
 It's inside all of us.
 All you have to do is
 Breathe in. Look. Breathe out.

[*Mai-Anh Tran*]