

Love Song of the International Management Consultant

We're here to redeem you with slave market spin.
Our suits are two-piece holy wafer thin
or double-breasted Buddha-fat
and in Armani shoulder holsters,
shaped and polished by paid up pollsters,
we pack salvation's *rat-tat-tat*.

Sign up now, success awaits.
You're going to be the new Bill Gates.
Our power points have dum dum tips
that will guide you to a cloud-like land
of high rise hopes on Enron sand
where money bags open like graphite zips.

Our all-purpose pre-rigged organisational review
will downsize your workers to a paltry few.
And when put some relocation rumors into play
that skeleton team will build their own cage.
They'll be pulling like pit ponies for half their wage
when they hear you're shifting to old Bombay.

Trust our managerial grid. Your suckers in head office did.
We motivated, they salivated and into our Karaoke web they slid.
Swaying to our play sheet, mad as raving junk bond loons,
they followed us, Hamlin-style, on a Wall Street bender,
swiveling their hips to 'Love me tender'
—high as futures on our helium tunes.

When we strafe you with our Dreamliner grins,
you'll ache to believe we're about 'win-wins.'
But deep down every one of you knows,
our not so hidden global agenda
is to be the slickest, richest peddler
of the Managing Emperor's brand-new clothes.

ROGER VICKERY,
HARBORD, NSW

double-length chain-link pin

steep climb 10 km out of Shoal Bay
just before the top a lurch forward
I recognise as a broken chain

bicycle chains are the dark technology of cycling
tough metal precisely engineered
you oil them to run smoothly
but they pick up dirt from the road

working with a chain leaves your hands
unwashable black.

i remember other broken chains
you need to remove a link
bring the two parts of the outer link
two parts of the inner link
the bush
and the pin together
then drive the pin home

a chain tool holds the parts
but tolerances are so tight it takes twenty thirty
goes to get everything aligned
while you sweat
curse
and wipe your face
to give yourself chain-grease eyelids

but i have brought a new item
a double-length chain-link pin
the pin has an extension a fraction thinner
that holds all the parts in alignment

i slide the extension into place and
drive the main pin home with my chain tool
one turn per millimetre eight turns
i snap off the extension and file the end smooth

two minutes

no frustration

cycling on I wonder if I could begin a sonnet

*i love you as i love the double-length
chain-link pin*

RON HEARD,
BRISBANE QLD