

# *Sentience*

*a book of poems  
by Willie Watson*

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*also by Willie Watson:*  
*A Country's Just a Place*  
*Everyday's a Butterfly*  
*Cup of Tea*  
*The Quest for Enlightenment and Stuff*  
*Paradox*  
*Wild Pigs of Fukushima*  
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*The Guru Kalehuru and Other Poems*  
*Poems from Prague*

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# Introduction

The 79 poems in this book are a mixed bag, no doubt about it. Some are long, some are short, they cover a wide variety of subjects, some are better than others (always the case, although there may be some disagreement as to which is which), and some (like the title poem) take a deep look at human beings and our relationship with our universe, while others are downright silly.

I am particularly pleased with the title poem, because it did something that has happened for me only a few times in my poetry writing career. That is, by the time I finished the poem, I had come to view the universe in a fundamentally different way.

The universe may have come into existence with a Big Bang, and there may or may not have been other universes before us, and then the energy coalesced into suns, and then there were planets, and then there was our planet, and then there was single celled life, and then there was organized life, and then there was conscious life, and then there was us, but we are something very different than anything that ever went before, something brand new in the universe, and things aren't random any more, they are directed, and they are directed by us.

It's a miraculous thing, both an awesome responsibility (if we fail, the universe, as far as we know, will slip back into obliviousness for millennia, perhaps eons, perhaps forever) and an incredible opportunity.

I suppose this is a thing that is known, on some level, by some people, but it's a concept I'd never really thought about before, and it was a KABOOM moment. Sure, it would be advantageous for us to live in harmony with

our environment. It is a beautiful environment and, since it is the environment in which we evolved, it is darned close to perfectly suited to our needs, but we are no longer just a part of that environment. We are something separate from that environment, we are a new and unknown force in the universe, and it is up to us to be the best force we can be.

Another thing I'd like to point out, a bit more banal sort of thing, has to do with pronunciation. As I was writing the poem, in preparation for its first public reading, it struck me that perhaps I was pronouncing the key word incorrectly, as it is not an everyday sort of word. So, I got onto Google and looked it up.

Lo and behold, there is more than one accepted pronunciation. Sen-chense, the way I have always said it, is the American way, and sen-tee-ence, with three syllables, is the British standard. At first, I thought, no-brainer. I am American, and I should read it the American way. Then I read it through again and realized that in some spots three syllables worked better, in some spots two. As a poet, that is an important consideration, but it was still 50/50. As I read it through a few more times, the American pronunciation began to sound kind of illiterate, and this is a serious poem, so I decided to go with the British pronunciation. The first time I read the poem publicly, I talked about this in my introduction, and the 3 or 4 Americans in the audience all said "Hey, I've been pronouncing it as sen-tee-ence all along. Must have been living in Europe too long, ha ha." So, that's how I pronounce it now. Of course, this is the print edition, so however it comes out in your own head, that's O.K. with me. It's the idea that's truly important. I hope you enjoy the poems in this book. I hope they

make you think, and I hope a couple of them give you a chuckle or two, because we can always use that. As usual, massive thanks go to my wife, Helena, for actually doing the work of putting it all together, because when it comes to computers and printers and the whole self-publishing thing, I am bloody useless.

Happy reading!

## Sentience

Beautiful butterflies  
beautiful butterflies  
beautiful butterflies  
swim through the sky  
a layer of flowers  
above other flowers  
a pageant of beauty  
as they flutter by

On a small island  
the music is playing  
the tink tinkly tinkling  
of the steel drum  
the air's growing cooler  
the palm trees are swaying  
we watch the descent of  
the fat, yellow sun

Hot buttered pancakes!  
slathered in syrup  
sizzling sausages  
fresh off the grill  
olfactory heaven  
a quarter to seven  
it all smells delicious  
and tastes great as well

The pulse of the music  
the hot, sweaty bodies  
the joys of gyration  
it's all so much fun  
the music is grooving  
our feet are all moving  
our blood is all pumping  
our hearts beat as one

Sentience is wonderful!  
Awesome! Spectacular!  
We are aware of the  
sights and the sounds  
It's so incredible  
Some of it's edible  
all of these things in the  
world that we've found

and we can relate to  
in fact, it is great to  
we can manipulate  
matter and energy  
we are in search of  
the ultimate synergy  
we are in search of  
the ultimate zenergy

that's what we get from our  
sentient quality  
we can create things  
and we can debate things  
and we can destroy things  
if we've got a mind to  
all of these things are now  
things we can do

We stand apart from the  
physical universe  
we are a virus  
within the great host  
we can co-operate  
or show resistance  
whichever we think  
benefits us the most

But, it would be better  
before we set out on our  
quest to forever  
our trek to the stars  
to stop for a moment  
and take a look inwards  
and try to discover  
who we really are

In our reality  
there are dualities  
day and night, wrong and right  
dark, light and so on  
we are still growing and  
changing, evolving  
these all are questions  
that still need resolving

God, myths, and leprechauns  
per Joseph Campbell are  
all generated  
inside our own minds  
but if we enter the  
cave we're afraid of  
there is unlimited  
treasure to find

Hope and desire and  
passion like fire and  
hate, love and jealousy  
anger and rage  
depression, elation  
internal sensations  
we put into words which  
we print on a page

We are unique, in the whole  
of the universe  
we are unique, at least  
far as we know  
we are distinct from the  
plants and the animals  
mountains that stand there  
or water that flows

We are emergent!  
a living intelligence!  
we don't yet know just how  
far we can go  
our quest for significance  
can be magnificent  
we are like children  
just itching to grow

We are but a speck  
in the physical universe  
from where we stand  
to the most distant star  
The whole universe  
is completely indifferent  
it is not sentient  
but, people are

## **Overwhelmed**

**We're very small fish in a very large ocean  
an ocean of infinite information  
we live out our lives, we go through the motions  
but nothing changes our situation**

## **For Greta**

**The single cloud is lonely  
as it drifts up in the sky  
it's small, but knows we need the rain  
and so, it's going to try  
it will be joined by others, by and by  
Oh, brave, little cloud up in the sky**

# The New and Improved Order

Here  
in cyberspace  
we are building  
we're building a layer  
of civilization  
a platform for communication  
and the spreading of information  
learning, knowledge, education  
virtual travel and vacations  
without all the traffic and other frustrations  
family, social situations  
lots of political altercations  
we all find our new locations  
in this new layer of civilization  
that sits atop the previous layer  
of massive urban aggregations  
houses, roads, and petrol stations  
farms, and all sorts of installations  
schools, and public sanitation  
that sits atop the previous layer  
of forests and mountains and rivers and seas  
the flowers in the meadow that call to the bees  
the bushes, the berries, the mushrooms, the trees  
the water we drink and the air that we breathe  
that sits atop the previous layer  
of protons and neutrons and matter and energy  
physical laws, such as gravity, entropy  
shaping the universe that we all know of  
the incubator in which we have grown  
and things will be wonderful, better and better  
if all of these layers can function together

## **Spheres**

**There's completion, there is poetry  
in geometric shapes  
the spherical perfection  
of the berries and the grapes**

**drawing moisture from the Earth  
and sparkle from the Sun  
they look like tiny, little planets  
each and every one**

## **A Legitimate Concern**

**Sometimes I stay awake for hours  
lying in my bed  
worried, if I go to sleep  
that I could wake up dead**

## **On Finding One's Proper Place in the Universe**

**The frog sits on the lily pad  
he must be very light  
for the lily pad to stay afloat  
as if it were a little boat  
that never sinks, not quite  
the balance is just right**

## **The Poetry Scene**

**Be original!  
Use your own words!  
Poetry should be a scene  
not a herd**

## **The Inconsequentiality of Writers' Habits**

**You can write with pen on paper,  
or a keyboard on a screen  
either way, the hope is that  
we'll all know what you mean  
chalk upon a sidewalk  
or paint on walls instead  
either way, the writing part  
takes place inside your head**

## **Emergence**

**From nothing into something  
and from matter to biology  
there is a wave of energy  
that impacts on reality  
it's destiny that humankind exists  
but now we're here,  
that adds a little twist**

## **Well Matched**

**I love to go down to the river  
to feed bread to the ducks and the swans  
just toss out the crumbs in the middle  
and the battle between them is on  
the swans, of course, are bigger  
but the ducks are faster, and mean  
and woe betide anybody else  
that should try to get in between**

## **Wait and See**

**All that was, was meant to be  
and all that is, is meant to be  
and what will be, will be meant to be  
we don't know what that is, just yet  
we have to wait and see**

## **Experience**

**When we are young and passionate  
everything is sharp and clear  
but, there's no time to process  
all the things we say and hear  
Now, I can't see and hear as well  
as I could see and hear before  
but all I see and all I hear  
I appreciate much more**

## **Sorry, Misread That**

**I was glad to see the photographs  
of peonies, instead  
of photographs of penises,  
which is what I read**

## **Pieces of a Puzzle**

**The air we breathe  
the food we eat  
the things we see and do each day  
The people who  
we pause to greet  
out on the street, along the way  
all fit together and make perfect sense  
as we exist within the present tense**

## **Code of Honor**

**Be loyal to your hometown team  
Stick with them, through and through  
Siding with the winners  
is a thing that losers do**

## **A Failure to Conform**

**The face of an apartment block  
is stark and geometric  
like a stack of cardboard boxes  
that you cannot see inside  
The surface as inscrutable  
as the surface of the ocean  
24 levels going up  
and 13 units wide  
They are so identical  
so perfectly symmetrical  
it's easy to imagine  
that they are all the same  
But they are filled with people  
who have families, who have children  
who have boyfriends, who have girlfriends  
who have faces, who have names**

## **The Voice That Can Be Ignored**

**That little voice inside your head  
will tell you lots of stuff  
that you can never pull it off,  
that you're not good enough  
you are not required to listen  
to what it has to say  
No one else can hear it, anyway**

## Poetry Night at the Amphitheater

We're gathered here  
at this place, in this moment  
to see and be seen and  
to hear and be heard  
our thoughts and perceptions  
emotions, sensations  
our pain and our passion  
contained in our words  
here among friends  
on a sweet, balmy night  
The feel on our skin  
of the soft, summer weather  
Gathered in darkness  
to look for the light  
a dance is romance  
if you do it together

## **Prototype**

**There are many things that many people  
do not understand  
but, through our ignorance,  
we muddle through as best we can**

**We expect some disagreement,  
and some trouble on the way  
as we try to build a better world  
where everything's O.K.**

**We're still trying to find our purpose  
in this time and in this place  
as we build our Brave New World  
inside of cyberspace**

## **The Importance of a Thicker Skin**

**As we walk across the Earth  
there are people all around us  
and they're all a little different  
from us in a lot of ways**

**It would be exhausting  
if we were to get offended  
at every random thing  
some random person had to say**

## **Time Differential Universe**

**Time expands, or so it seems  
when we are in the world of dreams  
I went away for several years  
but when I woke, I was still here**

## **Oh! To Be an Elephant in Spring!**

**Oh, to be an elephant in Spring!  
to prance among the marigolds  
dancing in a ring  
Oh, the snakes may slither on the ground  
the bees may have their sting  
the birds are flying through the sky  
upon their outstretched wings  
and all the animals on Earth  
are doing their own thing  
as we lift our trunks up in the air  
and joyously we sing  
it's so good to be an elephant in spring!**

## **The Death of Summer Comes in Silence**

**The snow falls slower than the rain  
and often, it's at night  
each flake is like a feather  
so elegant and light  
While everybody is asleep  
it doesn't make a sound  
softly, softly, silently  
it covers up the ground  
We wake up in the morning  
and we see a world transformed  
though there wasn't any warning  
in the silence of the storm**

## **The Effect of Social Media on Literature**

**With the advent of social media  
poetry has surged  
anybody with a keyboard  
may give in to the urge  
there are more words that are written  
than ever will be read  
(It's a little bit like speaking-  
no one cares what you just said)  
There is no way to stop it now  
we're caught up in a flood  
and, when that is over  
we'll be slogging through the mud**

## **Schizophrenic, to be Specific**

**If humanity had a hive mind  
(and it certainly seems like we're headed that  
way)**

**Perhaps we won't like what we're going to find  
with so many different factors in play**

**absorbing the signals from eight billion brains  
we are, as a species, quite clearly insane**

## **For Helena, With Love**

**From the time she says she's ready  
to the time she's really ready  
is a length of time that's relative  
and hard to calculate  
but the constant that is steady  
is as soon as you are ready  
and you're standing in the hallway  
she's still going to make you wait**

## **Keeping it Real**

**Descartes plays a part  
in philosophy's history  
in my opinion  
a very large part  
if we're looking into  
the meaning of meaning  
to know we exist is  
a good place to start**

## **The Benefits of Boredom**

**Boredom isn't all that bad  
it's better than war, disease, or death  
it's better than being upset, or mad  
just relax, and take a breath**

## **The Only Limitation**

**The universe surrounds us  
an orgy of sensations  
we are adrift and rudderless  
in an ocean of information  
we soak up everything we can  
of what there is to find  
the only limitation  
is the space inside our minds**

## **Our Lives in Film**

**When we watch movies  
we think we're the heroes  
we kill all the bad guys  
we rack up the score  
That's not reality  
it's just a fantasy  
but, in the end  
that's what movies are for**

## **Distinctions**

**Cute is different from pretty  
nice is different than good  
We'd rather do the things we like  
than the things we should  
toads are not the same thing as frogs  
and rabbits are different than hares  
frogs and rabbits know this  
but most people don't really care  
Lucky is different than happy  
a sport is not always a game  
and people are different in so many ways  
but mostly we're all the same**

## The Waves of Wind

The waves of wind  
across the land  
form drifts of snow  
and dunes of sand  
but the waves  
out on the ocean  
rise and fall  
in constant motion  
As our planet  
slowly spins  
things get moved  
and change begins  
everything on Earth we see  
is matter shaped by energy

## The Ear of the Reader

Poetry, of course,  
is all about communication  
the writer and the reader  
it's a two-way situation  
It is poetic in itself  
It's beautiful! It's great!  
When a poet's words get elevated  
to that higher state  
But still, I am an egotist  
and it seems to me unfair  
when people see things in my poems  
I didn't know were there

## **Surfing Through Time**

**The world you were born in no longer exists  
this is the future, and that is the price  
we try to swim back, but the current resists  
you can never step into the same river twice  
To be in the present, to 'be here now'  
Is like surfing a wave on a bright summer day  
The present eternal! The infinite wow!  
Like the stars in the sky are all moving away  
Space is expanding and time carries on  
the journey itself is the true destination  
whatever we cling to is going to be gone  
and we'll have to adjust to the new situation**

## **The Art of Mutation**

**Generational alternation  
reproduction with variations  
some are subtle, some mutations  
it's a chain of many parts  
those which offer new solutions  
are selected, that's evolution  
and this hypothesis holds true  
in both biology and art**

## **Dogs and Cats**

**Dogs are belligerent  
if they don't know you  
but when they know you  
they're loyal and sweet  
and when you come home  
they are waiting to greet you**

**Cats are indifferent  
arrogant creatures  
they might hang around  
if you offer them treats  
but if you should die  
they will probably eat you**

## **The Feeling's the Same**

**Intensity's desirable  
when you're in a relationship  
but can turn, the moment that  
they learn that it has ended  
There are many who have earned  
the fury of a lover spurned  
this is true, no matter who  
without regard to gender**

## **Line in the Sand**

**If you truly believe in Noah's Ark  
or that the Earth is flat  
that Joel Osteen talks to God  
or anything like that  
that the Earth is only 6,000 years old  
(That's really far too brief)  
or that climate change is a hoax  
No, I don't respect your beliefs**

## **The Mandelbrot Journey**

**An infinite progression  
or an infinite regression  
will just go on and on and on  
and never vary very much  
The images that Mandelbrot  
into our public consciousness  
are fractals of reality  
and inspirational as such**

## **A Critical Review**

**The reason most people  
don't like modern poetry  
is that most modern poetry's shit  
It doesn't have rhyme,  
it doesn't have meter,  
a message, a meaning, wisdom or wit**

## **Faces in the Crowd**

**Like birds of a feather  
clumps of flowers grow together  
like people at a concert  
or a rally or a game  
we may have some disparities  
but also similarities  
and when we're all together  
everybody looks the same**

## **Not Pests**

**Opossums, snakes and spiders  
are mistreated and oppressed  
they play a role in pest control  
but we think of them as pests**

## **It's the Words, Not the Font**

**When I write, I write in words  
and type them out in black and white  
and mostly they are words you've heard  
so you can understand all right  
My poetry's not always great  
but most of what I've said, I've meant  
that's how I communicate  
or, at least, that's my intent**

**That is all I really want  
I do not care for funny fonts**

## **Love and Possession**

**Love is a thing all people want  
Oh, how we want that thing  
yet we resent it bitterly  
whenever someone clings**

## **Comment on a Photograph of the American Southwest**

**The road goes straight as an arrow  
as far as the eye can see  
the rusted, derelict neon sign  
that still says 'vacancy'  
the rotting corpse of an era  
the ghost of days gone by  
when we would ride forever  
beneath the clear, blue sky**

## **Time is a One-Way Street**

**As we are traveling in time  
across the universe  
the present is the only thing we see  
our vehicles (that is, our bodies)  
do not have 'reverse'  
so we're moving forward, through eternity**

## **Philosophic Inquiry**

**The cogs, the chains, the levers, the wheels  
each part of a whole is entirely real  
to discover the meaning, we take things apart  
it may not be perfect but, hey, it's a start  
the reason Rene's proclamation persists  
is because - look around you - existence exists**

## **Beauty on Parade**

**A beauty pageant's playing out  
across the ground and in the trees  
the flowers flaunt their petals  
and the audience is pleased**

## **Bucking the Trends**

**I have known people who don't like coffee  
who don't like bacon, who don't like wine  
Apparently, this is very strange,  
but we get along just fine**

## **The Unshakeable Tenacity of Regret**

**Half our waking lives is spent  
in wondering what we should have said  
and that will likely be the case  
till sometime after we are dead**

## **'Tis a Pity**

**Nobody's out drinking whiskey  
there's no point in wearing green  
Oh, what a lame St. Patrick's day  
when we're in quarantine**

## **Appreciation**

**Every spring is the only spring  
for butterflies and some other things  
whose lives are very short, and yet  
they make the most of the spring they get**

## **Pre-Determination**

**The egg, the seed, the embryo  
all contain the DNA  
that determines how we grow  
that directs us on our way  
The egg, the seed, the embryo  
that's how most life on Earth begins  
before we even start to grow  
what we will be's contained within**

## Too High a Price

Unity's a lovely goal  
if we could find it in our soul  
if we could find it in our heart  
to bring together what's apart  
So, everyone could live as one  
wouldn't that be so much fun?  
But then I see the other guys  
and all they have is hate, and lies  
so, it would be a travesty  
to live with them in harmony  
at least until some wrongs are righted  
we're going to have to stay divided

## Mixed Signals

It feels just like an Autumn day  
the leaves are raspy, dry, and brown  
skuttering across the ground  
and yet, it's not that time of year  
at all, and so the signs are clear  
it must be Spring that's on the way

## The Sword and the Pen

Lust is a surge, a chemical urge  
as such, it is the stronger  
but love's appeal, is very real  
and lasts a whole lot longer

## **The Glorious Uprising of January 6<sup>th</sup>**

**They raise their guns above their heads  
chanting very loud**

**They're bold and they are fearless  
defiant, fierce and proud**

**but when they're at the airport**

**and they're not allowed to fly**

**it's embarrassing to watch them**

**as they whimper and they cry**

**The storming of the Capitol**

**was their last, their golden chance**

**Now, they're going home alone**

**and pissing in their pants**

## **The Drums of Socialism**

**OMG the drums of Socialism  
with their deep, incessant rhythm  
pounding out a call for justice  
calling out for better health care  
calling for a cleaner planet  
calling out to house the homeless  
calling out to free the prisoners  
calling out to end the wars  
calling out for education  
calling out to help the poor  
Oh, the horror! Oh, the horror!**

## **Becoming Scottish Nobility**

**If you'd be a Lady or a Lord  
and have enough you can afford  
a bit of dosh  
to make you posh  
then that's what you should do**

**It's not a cheat, it's not a crime  
the Lords and Ladies of ancient times  
cannot say shit  
'cause the truth of it  
that's how they got theirs, too**

## **Anarchists**

**They love black clothes, the letter A  
and fires in the night  
They're a mood more than a movement  
they are neither left nor right  
they are against all government  
no ifs, or ands, or buts  
and they're sometimes fun at parties  
but anarchists are nuts**

## **The End of Innocence**

**The universe exists because  
of some combination of physical laws  
(we may not know exactly yet,  
perhaps some day we might)**

**We are not blessed, nor are we cursed  
things could be better, could be worse  
in the vast and endless darkness  
there are many tiny lights**

**Now, it's all up to us because  
there is no God, and never was  
and once we come to terms with that  
things will be all right**

## **Different Approaches**

**Some try to find their inner  
energy so they can center it  
while some prefer to smoke and drink  
and be a bit degenerate  
some are quite engaged in life  
while others do not give a shit  
and some have had about enough  
of very nearly all of it  
we share the same environment  
but in how we relate to it  
there are some basic differences  
or, at least, a little bit**

## **Under the Dome**

**The blue and overarching dome  
that shelters us from outer space  
as a roof protects a home  
it keeps us cozy in this place  
breathing in the atmosphere  
we are walking in the sky  
we cannot see it, it is clear  
and yet, without it, we would die  
We see the stars so far away  
as tiny, twinkling dots of light  
but they are cancelled out by day  
and only visible at night  
We're creatures of the day, it seems  
but the night is made for dreams**

## **A Pleasure Bumping Into You**

**Sometimes, perhaps, we read too much  
into an accidental touch  
As when we stumble, or we trip  
and lip comes very close to lip  
or, perhaps, our fingers meet  
when reaching for some tasty treat  
and yet, it cannot be denied  
on those occasions, sweet and rare  
when the chemistry is there  
it's magic, and the sparks will fly**

## **Like Mercury**

**Like a top, the world is spinning  
every day's a new beginning  
every day's a brand new chance  
a brand new song, a brand new dance  
the sun comes up, the sun goes down  
as the world goes round and round  
but, if it did not rotate  
we'd be in a different state  
How would we know  
when to begin  
on a world that didn't spin?**

## **Comment on the Annual Debate between Fall and Autumn**

**It's not a flaw our language has  
two words for almost anything you see  
it makes things easier by far  
for those who would write poetry**

## **The Mirror as Abyss**

**Art imitates life  
Life imitates art  
both of these are true  
When you look into a mirror  
the mirror looks into you**

## **Indifference**

**I use the internet to show  
the world how smart I am  
and yet, the internet shows me  
the world don't give a damn**

## **Good Morning, Miss Cow!**

**When a cow looks in your window  
and you're on the second floor  
either smile and say hello  
or don't do LSD no more**

## **Please Dew**

**Like a pleasantly moist morning  
in the merry month of May  
like the fog that creeps like cat's feet  
across the quiet bay  
like the dew upon the flowers  
and the petals that it's kissed  
if you go away  
you will be mist**

## **Dual Realities**

**Having a life you lead online  
doesn't alter your physical space  
Your butt is there  
deep in your chair  
but your mind is all over the place**

## Why There is So Much Bad Poetry Online

The medium is the message  
So, it isn't all that strange  
That the social media medium  
is putting us through some changes  
there are gazillions of new poets  
and, as far as I can tell  
there is no requirement  
that they know how to spell  
how to use a metaphor  
or even how to rhyme  
because it's up to each individual  
how poetry's defined  
and you can forget about meter  
that's gone right out the door  
if you have some more to say  
just use a few words more  
I'm not too happy about it  
I think it's a negative trend  
but I doubt that this non-stop torrent of rubbish  
is ever going to end

## **Do Your Own Thing**

**Some people are tall  
some people are short  
some people like music  
some people like sports  
some don't like waking up too soon  
and some get naked and howl at the moon  
a flower is beautiful, so is a star  
let everyone be just whatever they are**

## **Yes, it is Anthropogenic**

**It seems like it's never going to get better  
every summer is hotter and wetter  
Except in those places it's hotter and drier  
it seems like the whole damn world's on fire  
floods and hurricanes, fire and drought  
it seems as if there's no way out  
we're lobsters boiling in the stew  
the world won't change  
unless we do**

## **Far Across the Night of Skies**

**Far across the night of skies  
through our telescopes we see  
to our wonder and surprise  
a world of different galaxies**

**and with our microscopes we see  
down to microscopic sizes**

**changes in technology  
enhance our capability  
to perceive reality  
it's magic, in a way**

**a world much greater than ourselves  
has been perceived by human eyes  
far across the night of skies**

## **For All of my Nieces and Nephews, and Grand Nieces and Nephews**

**This book is mostly for adults  
which you will be someday  
but, for now, you have the time  
to watch cartoons and play  
which, though its hard to picture  
your parents also did  
and your kids may, as well, some day  
so, Merry Christmas, kids!**