



Image from ConnectABILITY.

Philip Fried

### Entanglement

Now, in your mind, place your hands on your head,  
take three giant steps, hop twice,  
jump forward, and posit—  
no need to believe in—an ur-Simon  
whose simple say-so  
commanded in the Void the mutual  
annihilation of particle and anti-particle,  
with scarcely a fumble or hiccup and who,  
though himself annihilated in the Big Bang,  
somehow abides in the background radiation.

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A boy whose father's fragile ego  
prompts him to slap and wallop  
brings to this game an alert, jittery  
need to obey commands double quick while not  
getting off on the wrong foot  
and, with his whole existence poised on tiptoe,  
will hear encrypted  
directives in a world that echoes with Simon,  
hidden decrees in a mockingbird's song  
or a cricket's stridulation.

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We stand at attention, eyes on the screen, awaiting  
the moves our Simon-in-Chief will order, while  
in this inter-mission,  
consulting with his heavily medaled band  
of uniforms in a room besieged by maps,  
he meditates, ponders, mulls, and reflects,  
and the pundits purr with insightful commentary,  
running scenarios, kicking the tires of options,  
touting that boot-camp maneuver,  
the side-straddle-hop.

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Though universal and proverbial—  
In Egypt, a General; in Italy, a Dance-Master—  
he too had a childhood that seemed eternal.  
It was then this folk hero devised the game,  
first playing it solo,  
lying back in a starlit meadow of speculation  
concerning a twin on Alpha Centauri—  
perfectly other, in perfect synch with him.  
Yes, dreaming in light-years darkly was Simon's invention....  
Now, spin around twice to face yourself, wave good-bye.

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A generous selection of Philip Fried's work appears in a new anthology, published in the UK by The High Window Press and titled *Four American Poets*. In the fall of 2016, Salmon poetry will bring out his seventh book of poetry, *Squaring the Circle*.