

A Waste Land

By Lijiaozi Cheng

I suspect a large part of the strange beauty of *The Waste Land* comes from its uncanny mixture of voices. So I thought mixing voices from Twitter might be a fun thing to do. It is a slightly mythical celebration of heteroglossia, I guess. When we finally can capture real voices so easily, but need myth nonetheless. That is perhaps the paradox of modernism.

A Waste Land

“沧浪之水清兮，可以濯吾缨；沧浪之水浊兮，可以濯吾足。”

I. Azure Dragon

“Tree hugger” is never an insult.

Hugging trees is great.

Even better is waking up the next day in a tree’s arms and
telling it your dreams¹.

Like the way the monkey craves the peach.

Does he dare eat it?

I smiled and said not a word.

I, Meng-Po, cook the tea of forgetfulness By the bridge of
Nai-He.

Death has undone so many.

They crawled into the river,
Singing the hymn of eternity.

Aha,

Here’s the thing,

I firmly believe I’m the worst,

But expect everyone to worship me².

The willow is growing younger.

You really have to be on the ball to get the most out of
Pilates³.

II. Vermilion Bird

What happened to the sodding eclipse⁴?

My dolphin is sad.

Things went south.

I am celebrating Adrian Chiles' birthday in style⁵. One time I was like,

'Lucas, you're pretty good with the lid on,

But have you ever thought about taking the lid off?'

A whole country just said the word 'Frankenstein'.

And I just added 'comb hair' and 'spend 5 minutes appreciating dog' to the agenda for Monday With alarms to remind me.

Chirps. Chirps.

Oh, hey gurl.

I find this very moving.

I am obviously tired this evening.

III. White Tiger

When Will China Disclose Its True Official Gold Reserves
And How Much Is It? When I broke up that spring,

I got a ring for myself.

It was delicate.

She said. Gotta learn to listen.

She's distraught. She can't believe the filmmakers were
allowed to tell a story that insane.

I want to have her blue dress.

I need to go on a diet to fit in.

It is made mostly of cheese.

Got a pretty ground-breaking piece about #fitness dropping
this week. Everyone start stretching.

Aha, the welfare cut question.

'Let me explain,' says Cameron, using phrase which is usu-
ally prelude to saying not much. Discover healthy recipe
apps in a totally new way.

IV. Black Turtle

Fear death by water. But I can swim.

Ah, crap, I've just remembered that April Fools' day is coming.

I think of it as Unfunny Lies day.

What do you think of the dappled sunlight in Monet's 'Springtime'?

Pirates of the sea!

Then there's this response.

My husband doing a triathlon in Batemans Bay, Australia. This wil-

low is growing fatter.

The sun is growing thinner.

People drink the soup up

And I get to collect their memory in bottles. With style. That is why I

have such a messy mind.

I can recite the numbers for you.

I will tell you a story.

My cat is sad

Because he's had an argument about politics With my other more

right wing cat,

Who is now ignoring him.

He said, don't you pretend to be philosophical. I have lived a thousand

years.

V. Mango6 Dragon

I saw a pigeon wearing a loaf of bread as necklace.

When he eats crumbs fall off him.

Into earth. By wind.

Clearly a Hegelian question.

Retweet if you're not totally sure of the correct time.

You know cooking soup is very boring.

Notes

Many of the lines come from random tweets. I will list a few but this is not exhaustive at all.

1. Kasey @kaseykat1997

2. This comes from somewhere on Tweeter, but I cannot remember the origin.

3. Wil Wheaton @wilw

4. Elizabeth Windsor @Queen_UK

5. am @amitalbot_

6. I always suspect it has the same colour as yellow.