

adrian nichols

from
ars poetica

one

0'00''

0'05''

0'10'' working with chance i surprise us
more

0'15''

0'20''

0'25''

0'30'' in poetry
0'35'' as by working with gravity

0'40''

0'45'' i jump higher

0'50''

0'55'' and land more softly

1'00'' by you

1'05'' when we dance

1'10''

1'15'' fighting gravity

1'20'' or chance

1'25'' we lose

1'30'' never resisting
it we die

1'35''

1'40'' but no gravity

1'45''

1'50'' and no chance

1'55''

2'00'' would mean no chance of engagement
imagine making love

2'05''

2'10'' in zero gravity

2'15'' or zero time (eternity)

2'30''

2'35''

2'40''

or at an ap-
pointed hour

two

0'00" working with chance

0'05" produces necessity

0'10"

0'15" like hunger

0'20"

and spares me a lot
of effort

0'25"

0'30"

0'35"

0'40"

in arranging things

0'45"

0'50"

0'55"

1'00"

1'05"

poetically speaking

1'10"

1'15"

1'20"

1'25"

so that when i'm not hungry

1'30"

1'35"

1'40"

1'45"

1'50"

i have time

1'55"

2'00"

for making noodles
from scratch

2'05"

2'10"

although it's
not necessary
and folding the
laundry

2'15"

three

0'00" chance is useful
0'05" in poetry
0'10"
0'15"
0'20"
0'25"
0'30" because it is a big part of life
0'35"
0'40" but don't expect
happiness
0'45"
0'50"
0'55" or wealth from it
1'00"
1'05"
1'10"
1'15"
1'20"
1'25" fortune is not happiness
1'30"
1'35" and poetry is pain
1'40"
1'45"
1'50"
1'55"
2'00"
2'05"
2'10" and pleasure
2'15" pleasure must be crafted
2'20"
2'25"
2'30" from poetry
2'35"

2'40"

2'45"

2'50"

2'55"

and from whatever else
comes your way

3'00"

3'05"

3'10"

3'15"

3'20"

3'25"

3'30"

3'35"

3'40"

pain wants your love

love is useful

in poetry

but don't expect
happiness from it

3'45"

3'50"

3'55"

4'00"

4'05"

4'10"

4'15"

love is not happiness
it is pain

and pleasure

4'20"

4'25"

4'30"

4'35"

4'40"

pleasure must
be crafted

4'45"

4'50"

4'55"

5'00"

5'05"

5'10"

from love

5'15"

5'20"

5'25"

and love from pain

5'30"

pain is useful

5'35" but don't expect poetry from it

5'40"

5'45"

5'50"

5'55"

poetry must be crafted

6'00"

from pain and

pleasure

6'05"

6'10"

6'15"

6'20"

6'25"

6'30"

6'35"

and whatever else

comes your way

adrian nichols was born to two dancers in New York City and began contributing essays and reviews to the Ballet Review in 1993. He studied the classics and worked as a lawyer for five years. Since 2001, he has lived as a translator in Berlin, where he has three children in school. His poetry and translations have appeared in *Illuminations*, *Knockout*, *Noon: Journal of the Short Poem*, *Ping Pong*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Here/There:Poetry*, *Sand*, the dance blog of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Basalt*, and *No Man's Land*.