

## *An Ode to Odes*

O odes  
O odes of negativity and positivity  
O odes of seriousness and playfulness  
O odes of butterflies and cockroaches  
O odes of plants instead of animals  
O odes

You are the father of encouragement, the mother of appreciation  
For you are filled with compassionate dedication  
You are unlike everything else, the rest  
Self-centered concoctions of hate like pests

Please odes  
Please odes do not promise uplifting words and give us otherwise  
Please odes protect yourselves from those who force meaning out of you  
Please odes do not listen to those who say your praise is *exaggerated* hyperbole  
Please odes know that your words are not a waste  
Please odes

You help us think positively; you are the critic of exaggeration  
You bring out purpose in every topic with your patience  
Writing about something for an entire poem is not a sign of hyper-adoration  
But an indicator of respectful admiration

O odes please  
O odes please go out into this world  
O odes please spread the word about your passions  
O odes please ride off into the sunset so our memory of you is stored in our sleep  
O odes please be yourselves and only yourselves  
O odes please

I chant your name 20 times  
You still hear my voice as if it were wind chimes  
And you listen  
You listen