

## **Masculinity**

### **Anthony R Salandy**

What can masculinity  
do for the average man  
or indeed the beguiling woman too—

For masculinity is not pure nor natural  
but rather contrived  
in the large offices that create trends—

so ludicrous that one might question  
why fashion is so particular  
or why action must be so contorted—

to the construction of perceived norms  
associated with the socially conceived  
notion of a categorical gender

where no true meaning  
might be ascribed  
but the perpetuation of cultural—

not biological commandments  
for which we all must bend  
to please the creators of ideologies—

waning in meaning.

Anthony R Salandy is an aspiring poet & writer who likes to focus on the contrast between nature and humanity but also the many similarities that bring the two together. Anthony enjoys the pastoral as well as the depth of human sentiment and action and tries in earnest to express this in his poetry. Anthony travels frequently and has spent most of his life in Kuwait jostling between the UK & America. Anthony enjoys writing about the impact of multiculturalism in his life as well. Anthony's work has been published 11 times in *Kuwait Times* ('Half Kuwaiti?' ARS), *The Kuwait Poets Society's Ink & Oil Zine* (June 2019), *The Showbear Family Circus*, *Dream Noir Literary Journal*, *Straylight Literary Magazine*, *Poet's Choice Magazine*, *The Book Smuggler's Den*, *Montana Mouthful Literary Magazine*, *Sumou Magazine* as well as winning a Sociology Association Competition (SEC at UvA) with one poem published on social media. Anthony has an upcoming chapbook entitled "The Great Northern Journey." Anthony is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Sociology at The University of Amsterdam.