

midlife timeslap

mister know-it-all is finally getting a clue
the former smartest guy in the room is receiving his wake-up call
the so-called genius who thought he was gonna save the world
is beginning to realize that it's
passed him by.

tonight he dreamed of a reunion
with all of his high school peers
no one had changed too much
then he woke up
and realized
 everything had changed.

while he'd been struggling with how it was
and dreaming about how it oughta be
everyone else had been getting on with it
 getting married
 having kids
 building careers
 making money
 growing up.

now the arrogant aging wonder boy
looks in that yearbook in his head and sees
 doctors lawyers businesspeople
 bosses owners academics
 masters of government and commerce
 kings and queens of the corporate world
 wily investors
and more millionaires than he probably realizes.

he jolts awake at four in the morning
 sweating
 heart pounding
 no wife
 no kids
 rented apartment
 lousy job
 a few thousand in the bank
wondering if there's still time to turn it all around
scared to death there isn't
worried it's already too late
worried that the same reverse jedi mind tricks that got him here
will keep him here.

so here I am at four AM
 in the dead quiet of the dark
the only sound I can hear

is the ringing in my own ears
peter pan at midlife
plus a few years
wondering what the hell happened
where it all went
the former smartest guy in the room
mister know-it-all
a victim of my own inner hype
 narcissistic
 grandiose
 egotistic
 idealistic
 moralistic
 unrealistic
overcompensating underperforming
king of the world
(population: one)
slapped down by time
and my own inflated pretensions.

even my dreams lie to me now
 no one got older
 nothing has changed
 plenty of time left ...

wake up sleepy man
time is ticking
am I gonna get real
or
am I just gonna get old
or
is it too damn late now anyway
no matter what I do.