

## PARAMECIUM

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*Andrzej Bursa*

Children are nicer than adults  
animals are nicer than children  
reasoning thus you say  
I must come to the conclusion  
that nicest of all is the protozoan paramecium

so what

to me a paramecium's nicer  
than you you motherfucker

SONG OF A CANCER PATIENT WATERING  
A GERANIUM

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*Andrzej Bursa*

Cancer is an incurable illness  
Death is an irreversible phenomenon  
In funny clothes in striped pyjamas  
I water the geraniums

Geraniums as red as blood  
Geraniums white as milk  
In the blue buzz of a summer dusk  
On the hospital balcony

Birds foretell the dew Doctor  
Dew the heat's white fury  
I water our geraniums  
Wise white doctor

Cancer is an incurable illness  
Life is an invincible thing  
You have to be careful on hot days  
That the geraniums don't wilt

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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*Andrzej Bursa*

Does your father smoke a pipe?  
Yes, my father smokes a pipe  
Oui, mon père fume la pipe  
repeat this sentence  
it will  
o-  
pen a window on the world for you  
When you're sitting in Montmartre  
in a bar lovelier than satan's eyes  
they're sure to ask you  
if your father smokes a pipe  
then answer with a smile  
Oui, mon père fume la pipe  
See  
how wonderful it will be

## SAINT JOSEPH

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*Andrzej Bursa*

Of all the Catholic saints  
I like Saint Joseph most  
because he was no masochist  
nor any other sort of pervert  
but a professional  
always with that ax  
without the ax he probably felt  
like his arm was crippled  
and though things were tough for him  
he brought up the Kid  
who he knew  
wasn't his own  
but God's  
or someone else's  
and when they were running from the police  
at night  
extras amid the Ramses' inhuman architecture  
(maybe that's why policemen are called pharaohs)  
he carried the Child  
and the heaviest basket.

1957