Executive Summary

A rhyming lore of the human condition.

Learn now the Lore of Living Creatures!

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
— J. R. R. TOLKIEN

ACTION is good except when it’s not. AMBITION unchecked is a kind of mind rot.

ANXIETY is our constant companion. BEAUTY awaits in a desert canyon.

CHILDREN are a joy that can give us a pause. COMPLEXITY has the mind grasping at straws.

CONSCIOUSNESS is a fancy illusion. DEATH is the ultimate end to confusion.

EMPATHY is an angel that gave up its wings. EMPTINESS is the nature of things.

EVOLUTION and culture pull on our strings. EXISTENCE is a gift that hides many stings.

FEAR is POWER’s tool of oppression. FREE WILL may not be worth a digression.

HAPPINESS, misery — each has its turn. HOME is where you can never return.
LANGUAGE is how we influence others.
LOVE only makes sense to the lovers.

MATHEMATICS is strangely effective in SCIENCE.
MEMORY and hindsight are a wicked alliance.

MORALITY is shaped by those in POWER.
OLD AGE brings insights that make us dour.

PARENTS are the ones whom we leave behind.
PERCEPTION is a world made up by the mind.

POLITICS is corrupted by POWER and money.
POWER is that which is sweeter than honey.

POVERTY means that the rich don’t care.
REGRET is a door that can lead to despair.

RELIGION is opium for the masses.
SCIENCE reports to the ruling classes.

STUPIDITY will be our species’ perdition.
SUFFERING is a mark of the human condition.

TECHNOLOGY is often a mixed blessing.
THINKING should not be so depressing.

TIME is a teacher that kills its students.
TRUTH preservation calls for prudence.

WAR is fought at POWER’S behest.
YOUTH is a treasure that contains all the rest.