**Love Song of the International Management Consultant**

We’re here to redeem you with slave market spin. Our suits are two-piece holy wafer thin or double-breasted Buddha-fat and in Armani shoulder holsters, shaped and polished by paid up pollsters, we pack salvation’s *rat-tat-tat.*

Sign up now, success awaits. You’re going to be the new Bill Gates. Our power points have dum dum tips that will guide you to a cloud-like land of high rise hopes on Enron sand where money bags open like graphite zips.

Our all-purpose pre-rigged organisational review will downsize your workers to a paltry few. And when put some relocation rumors into play that skeleton team will build their own cage. They’ll be pulling like pit ponies for half their wage when they hear you’re shifting to old Bombay.

Trust our managerial grid. Your suckers in head office did. We motivated, they salivated and into our Karaoke web they slid. Swaying to our play sheet, mad as raving junk bond loons, they followed us, Hamlin-style, on a Wall Street bender, swiveling their hips to ‘Love me tender’—high as futures on our helium tunes.

When we strafe you with our Dreamliner grins, you’ll ache to believe we’re about ‘win-wins.’ But deep down every one of you knows, our not so hidden global agenda is to be the slickest, richest peddler of the Managing Emperor’s brand-new clothes.

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**double-length chain-link pin**

steep climb 10 km out of Shoal Bay just before the top a lurch forward I recognise as a broken chain

bicycle chains are the dark technology of cycling tough metal precisely engineered you oil them to run smoothly but they pick up dirt from the road

working with a chain leaves your hands unwashable black.

i remember other broken chains you need to remove a link bring the two parts of the outer link two parts of the inner link the bush and the pin together then drive the pin home

a chain tool holds the parts but tolerances are so tight it takes twenty thirty goes to get everything aligned while you sweat curse and wipe your face to give yourself chain-grease eyelids

but i have brought a new item a double-length chain-link pin the pin has an extension a fraction thinner that holds all the parts in alignment

i slide the extension into place and drive the main pin home with my chain tool one turn per millimetre eight turns i snap off the extension and file the end smooth two minutes no frustration

cycling on I wonder if I could begin a sonnet

    i love you as i love the double-length chain-link pin

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*Roger Vickery,*

*Harbord, NSW*

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*Ron Heard,*

*Brisbane QLD*