POEM

AGUS R. SARJONO*

Agus R. Sarjono was born on July 27, 1962 in Bandung, West Java. He graduated from the Department of Literature at IKIP Bandung Indonesia in 1988. He completed his MA at the University of Indonesia in 2002. Outside Indonesia, his poems, short stories, and plays have been published in various journals in Malaysia, Brunei, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. His poems have been included in more than 20 anthologies. He was an editor of the literary journal Horison. He worked as a lecturer at the Department of Theatre in Bandung and as the Program Director of the Jakarta Arts Council from 2002 to 2006. He was a writer-in-residence at the International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden from February to October 2001, with the permission of the Poets of All Nations Foundation. From December 2002 to March 2003 he was a writer-in-residence of the Heinrich-Böll Foundation in Langenbroich, Germany.

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FAKE POEM (Sajak Palsu)**

Good morning sir, good morning ma'am, the school children say
with fake politeness. Then they study fake history
from fake text-books. When school is finished
they are horrified to see the range
of their fake marks. Unable to enter university,
they go to their teachers' homes to offer
their fake respect and envelopes
full of money. With fake smiles,
the teachers pretend to refuse, then finally
accept the envelopes and make fake promises
that they will change the old fake marks
for new fake marks. The semesters pass,
and they are born as fake economists, fake lawyers,
fake agricultural scientists, fake engineers.
Some become fake teachers, scholars,
and artists. Passionately they rush to take advantage
of fake developmental policies based on fake economics.
They witness fake trading based on fake exports
and fake imports, offering fake quality goods.
Fake banks busily offer fake bonuses and gifts,
while silently providing loans based on fake
letters of security signed by fake officials
from the fake state banking authority.
Society trades with fake money supported
by fake exchange rates.
Fake currencies snarl at fake exchange rates
until the whole structure collapses
and the crisis destroys the fake government
through fake bad luck. The fake people
shout with fake delight and debate fake concepts
at fake seminars, honouring the arrival
of a fake democracy,

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