

IRON WILL

Can you tell me exactly what kind of 'will'? Precisely whose?
What did you do with yours? When you went Did you will
it into being to make it? Did you struggle with your will?
Will you tell . . . Tell me - how can it best be put into words?
If you came willingly would come? Did you go willingly?

,¹

The will it continued is a continuum still driving

Did you ever write down your will like a list that preserves or
holds your desires for the future? Did you categorise your
will? Demands once yours What's yours? Did you have to
think of all the things you made happen? Did your will get
cast in bronze anywhere were they willed onto the fabric -
welded or welled? Did you extract or carve willfully?

Was your exit willful? Was there too much you didn't get to
say? It's all just wind that's left Left of the will was the force
of wind rattling just glancing Did you read well in willing?
The fact that you didn't often stop will come across Bringing
up the glances bringing it up like regurgitating nobody
wants to re-bring

.²

The problem is that the will was substantial enough to have
got people talking to have got people swerving a talking
point around which I want the will to be considered wish
you could look at it as I can

*Bronze W
ill*

Edition 1 o 1

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Undate

d

Did you find that you executed your way well? Done and done and not done Where did you see yourself will the hardest? Are you reflected in the bronze ? Freeing yourself look at yourself now it could be in the letter *is it leaning towards the future? Running Did you try to stress your truth? Italicized Showing how much you cared so how you pressed on things still pressing on and on and onto the bronze* You wouldn't describe yourself as a pushover but you could read as pressed a pressed crease Where did you have to *fold* ? All those cards hiding the chest

On the bronze is it serif or sans? Did you wish it was the former or neither? Something more appropriate - blank Just the weight of it Formerly you were never orderly and the character was formed . . . quite just not quite how we hoped for you

•³

Was your will raised for touching and for shadows to be cast? Were your shadows cast too? I wonder if it's the weight of the will that counts or maybe the capitalisation? As in the bible so as to not read it wrong Because small g god is anyone's god without capital

All caps? It continued Don't let it get to you !*

Wrought iron will is more brittle This will is more like mine a bit more likely to crack and fissure Feeling the forces that shape it That's the difference between wrought iron and cast wrought is shaped by external forces and the latter is melted poured to be moulded Iron is not an alloy it is itself and unlike bronze magnetic Loaded too full of itself and is apparently attracting problems There's definitely a heat that an iron will can handle Wished to be handled well A noisy will and everyone remembers how it clanged and was clanged on

A bronze will could drop its apostrophes question marks and commas in the heat of a moment dropped fists bronze bends to the will not for want of reaching . . . the ellipses are drilled in you can imagine the drill carving

Even full stops can be pushed through pause a carving
out of space You tried to carve out a space to be heard

Iron Will

Will and will against themselves willing against a wall - there
you can see the plaque clearly Can you cast the force of an
Iron Will? The writing is depressed the debossing draws
you in no need for colour lying flat it fills up with
rainwater Is always crying from her I's An indentation I
suppose you were a subject that left dents everywhere your
own executor so people might say of you but this isn't
obituary Iron Will looks good to others but getting them to
execute what you believe in is a different matter
Resolute exhausting

Were you assuaged? Quenched when iron is hot it's set in
the quenching it is assuaged by dipping A reputation
setting and settling Exhausting being heated and cooled
and cooed the imitative sound of cooling a hot tsssss
Cool it Cool down Will commands in ten in ten seconds
you will calm down

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When the will gives way it is both open and closed to future
Giving way so much to concede in opening the door for
another if exits were more about the door closing instead
being shown the door You were perceived as a closed door
Iron Will reads like a shut trap no edge to pry

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Cast iron will gives way eventually in this giving it is still
wayward bits of its heavy parts scatter the exits All we've
got left that's what we often say all we have left

You're not gone Who are you but exhausted? Willing can
be silent All smoke and no fire I suppose that's why I

worry the will I don't quite understand *when* it wills Can it
be traced and felt historicized a ghost's efforts? A ghost of
efforts I read yours as willful still willing *you* Still
way-making going up against the prevailing wind that's all
that's left

of the will

. . .

Exitnotes

¹ 'Will and force can thus amount to the same thing: if not willing, then forced.' Sara Ahmed, *Willful Subjects*, 2012, p42

² 'Willfulness might be what we do when we are judged as being not, as not meeting the criteria for being human...not being white, not being male, not being straight, not being able-bodied.' Sara Ahmed, *Willful Subjects*, 2012, p15

³ 'No unfamiliar words; / and under that roof, they laboured as they had been/ laboured over, they beat us into swords.' Sharon Olds, *Calvinist Parents*, in *One Secret Thing*, 2008

⁴ 'A complaint does not go forward because it is not put forward by those who receive the complaint. That capitalized subject heading has much to teach us about how complaints are not heard. You have to shout because you are not heard. If you have to shout because you are not heard, you are heard as shouting. When complaints are heard as shouting, complaints are not heard.' Sara Ahmed <https://feministkilljoys.com>, *Complaint and Survival*, 2020

⁵ 'It's long been my complaint: having a body.' Cate Marvin, High School as *The Picture of Dorian Grey*, in *Oracle: Poems*, 2012

⁶ 'In short, *exit* consists of unrestrained invention which alters the rules of the game.' Paolo Virno, *A Grammar of the Multitude*, 2004, p70