

## Meta-Metamorphosis by Daniel Martín

One morning, when Zstkyps the cockroach woke from troubled dreams, he found himself in a human bed, transformed into a monstrous human being called Gregor Samsa. His many legs, so slim and graceful, had been transformed into two human arms and two human legs, too big for the size of his body.

'What's happened to me?' Zstkyps thought. It wasn't a dream. He really was a human being, one of those horrible giant creatures whose function was to provide cockroaches with food and protection.

'How about if I sleep a little bit longer and forget all this nonsense,' Zstkyps thought. But he couldn't go back to sleep. A lot of human thoughts passed through his mind. He had to go to a place called "store" to take a very juicy flat piece of cellulose called "order form", whatever that meant. Instead of eating the cellulose, he had to get it dirtied with a sort of dark urine called "ink". This would bring things called "merchandise" into this place called "store". And other absurd things like that. He decided he was not going to be influenced by this inferior human mind. After a lot of tossing and turning, he went back to sleep.

When Zstkyps woke up again, he was a cockroach once more. But his happiness didn't last long. He was still in bed, in the human being's bed. And he was huge, the size of the monstrous human being. His many legs waved about helplessly. He couldn't move, and he could not get the human thoughts out of his mind.

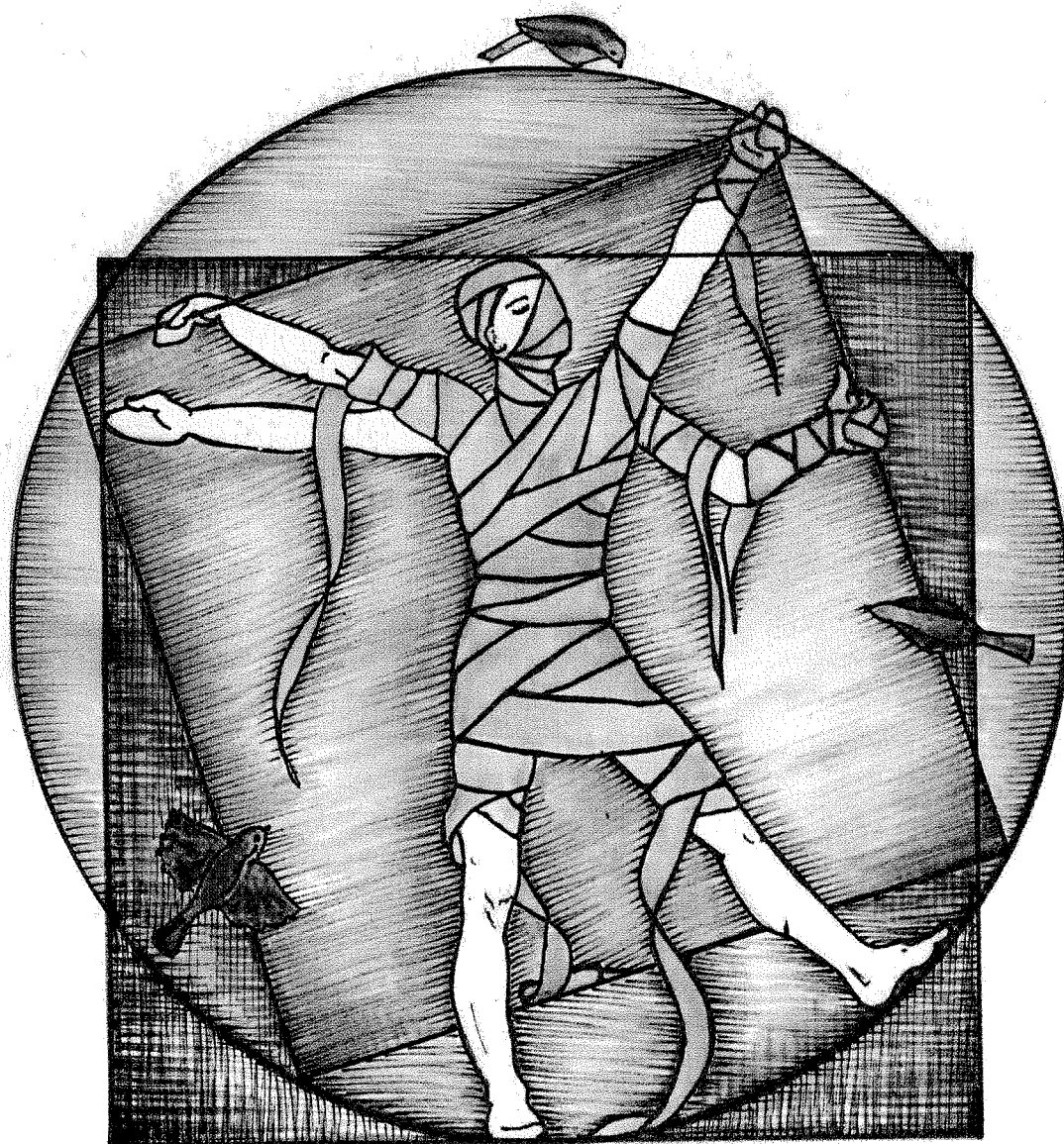
Looking at the information in the human mind, Zstkyps realised what had happened. It was poison. Those yummy green balls he ate last night were put there to kill him, not to feed him. This was the poison that everyone spoke about in his nest, the poison that slowly destroys the nervous system. The Supreme Sacred Brown Cockroach was wrong. Humans were not always benign; humans don't worship cockroaches and occasionally punish those who misbehave. Humans consider all of them to be vermin. Their intention was to kill them all.

Outside the room he could hear human howls. The poison must have been very potent, because he believed that he could understand them. 'Gregor,' somebody called, 'it's a quarter to seven. Didn't you want to go somewhere?' Zstkyps was shocked when he heard himself uttering a human howl. 'Yes, mother, yes, thank you, I'm getting up now.' Zstkyps looked into the human mind to figure out what a mother was. When he understood, he tried to wake up, to flee from the thought that he was having warm feelings for the humans outside. At the same time, though, he did not forget to remind himself that calm consideration was

much better than rushing to desperate conclusions. Especially if such conclusions were based on the exaggerated emotions of a human being.

Outside, someone else said that he had become an insect. This was not possible. Humans do not have a language; cockroaches cannot descend to the level of humans.

Zstkyks prepared for a long death, full of hallucinations.



# *Cycles*

*The Revolution  
of the Chrysalis*

Encuentro

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# Contents

<b>The Endless Battle</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	10
<b>The Burning</b> by Rosemary von Behrens ( <i>Painting</i> )	11
<b>Meta-Metamorphosis</b> by Daniel Martín ( <i>Short story</i> )	12
<b>The Revolution of the Chrysalis II, Finding New Dimensions</b> by Celia Gallardo ( <i>Drawing</i> )	13
<b>Happy Birthday Dad</b> by Antonio Arjonilla ( <i>Short story</i> )	14
<b>Secret of Cup</b> by Chun-chiang Shih ( <i>Painting, detail</i> )	15
<b>Sunset</b> by Ian Haynes ( <i>Photography, detail</i> )	16
<b>Images of Life</b> by Carmen Castelo ( <i>Short story</i> )	17
<b>About Butterflies</b> by Sergio Holas Véliz ( <i>Poem</i> )	19
<b>Yes, They are Coming</b> by Oscar del Pozo ( <i>Painting</i> )	19
<b>Voices of the River</b> by Celia Gallardo ( <i>Ceramic Sculpture</i> )	20
<b>Fish in Suit</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	21
<b>Esprit de Corps</b> by Daniel Martín ( <i>Short story</i> )	23
<b>Patten P6</b> by Oscar del Pozo ( <i>Painting</i> )	24
<b>A Kind of Evolution</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	27
<b>The Revolution of the Chrysalis I, Surrender to Nature</b> by Celia Gallardo ( <i>Drawing</i> )	27
<b>From the Bridge</b> by Antonio Arjonilla ( <i>short story</i> )	29
<b>New Kid in Tassie Block</b> by Rosemary von Behrens ( <i>Painting, detail</i> )	32
<b>The Southern Cross</b> by Carmen Castelo ( <i>Short story</i> )	33
<b>Marito</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	35
<b>Plain Plane</b> by Rosemary von Behrens ( <i>Painting</i> )	35
<b>The Revolution of the Chrysalis III, The Time is not Linear</b> by Celia Gallardo ( <i>Drawing</i> )	36
<b>The Watchmaker</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>short story</i> )	37
<b>The Cardboard Collector</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	38
<b>Suburban</b> by Daniel Martín ( <i>Short story</i> )	39

<b>Suburban Trains</b> by Ian Haynes ( <i>Photography</i> )	40
<b>When the Birds Return</b> by Carmen Castelo ( <i>Short story</i> )	43
<b>Little Terns Return</b> by Chun-chiang Shih ( <i>Painting, detail</i> )	43
<b>Cueca Alone</b> by Antonio Arjonilla ( <i>Short story</i> )	45
<b>Motion One</b> by Ian Haynes ( <i>Photography</i> )	46
<b>The Revolution of the Chrysalis IV, The Answer</b> by Celia Gallardo ( <i>Drawing</i> )	50
<b>The Interrogation</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	51
<b>The Revolution of the Chrysalis V, Records of Love</b> by Celia Gallardo ( <i>Drawing</i> )	52
<b>Records of Love</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	53
<b>Moon</b> by Chun-chiang Shih ( <i>Painting, detail</i> )	54
<b>The Solitude of Eustaquio</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	55
<b>The Afterwards</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	56
<b>Plane Ages</b> by Rosemary von Behrens ( <i>Painting</i> )	56
<b>Sand that Life Took Away</b> by Daniel Martín ( <i>Short story</i> )	57
<b>Haiku I</b> by Antonio Arjonilla ( <i>Short story</i> )	58
<b>Dead Gum Trees in Bloom</b> by Celia Gallardo ( <i>Drawing</i> ) & Takako Tamayo- del Solar ( <i>calligraphy</i> )	58
<b>Haiku II</b> by Antonio Arjonilla ( <i>Short story</i> )	59
<b>Mystical Life Enclosure</b> by Celia Gallardo ( <i>Drawing</i> ) & Takako Tamayo- del Solar ( <i>calligraphy</i> )	59
<b>Dreaming of Galicia</b> by Carmen Castelo ( <i>Short story</i> )	60
<b>Weld Lament</b> by Rosemary von Behrens ( <i>Painting</i> )	60
<b>Transplant</b> by Carmen Castelo ( <i>short story</i> )	61
<b>New Kid in Tassie Block</b> by Rosemary von Behrens ( <i>Painting</i> )	62
<b>Big Gomez</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	63
<b>Whale</b> by Celia Gallardo ( <i>Ceramic Sculpture</i> )	65
<b>The Blue Cup</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	66
<b>The Blue Cup</b> by Chun-chiang Shih ( <i>Painting, detail</i> )	67
<b>Of Longing and Dreams</b> by Carmen Castelo ( <i>Short story</i> )	68
<b>The Burning</b> by Rosemary von Behrens ( <i>Painting, detail</i> )	70

<b>The River</b> by Carmen Castelo ( <i>Short story</i> )	72
<b>The River</b> by Chun-chiang Shih ( <i>Painting, detail</i> )	74
<b>The Grandfather</b> by Antonio Moreno-Lagar ( <i>Poem</i> )	76
<b>Integration</b> by Rosemary von Behrens ( <i>Painting</i> )	77
<b>Hope</b> by Antonio Moreno-Lagar ( <i>Poem</i> )	78
<b>The Feast</b> by Carmen Castelo ( <i>Poem</i> )	79
<b>Ambrosia</b> by Carmen Castelo ( <i>Poem</i> )	80
<b>Ambrosia</b> by Celia Gallardo ( <i>Drawing</i> )	81
<b>Canberra Fireworks</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	82
<b>Fireworks</b> by Ian Haynes ( <i>Photography</i> )	83
<b>Andalusia Evening</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	85
<b>Final Dialogue</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	86
<b>Final Dialogue</b> by Celia Gallardo ( <i>Ceramic Sculpture</i> )	87
<b>The Era of the Gorilla Sapiens</b> by Daniel Martín ( <i>Short story</i> )	88
<b>At the Museum</b> by Ian Haynes ( <i>Photography</i> )	95
<b>The Magnetic Poles</b> by Ricardo Gallardo ( <i>Short story</i> )	96
<b>Stench</b> by Pollux Hernández ( <i>Short story</i> )	100
<b>Laughing Matters</b> by Oscar del Pozo ( <i>Painting</i> )	101
<b>The China Tea Cup</b> by Carmen Castelo ( <i>Short story</i> )	105
<b>Little Terns Return</b> by Chun-chiang Shih ( <i>Painting, detail</i> )	106
<b>The Footprints of the Past</b> by Carmen Castelo ( <i>Short story</i> )	109
<b>The Footprints I</b> by Ian Haynes ( <i>Photography</i> )	114
<b>Sergio's statement</b>	115
<b>Of Migrations, Deserts, Transpositions and Flights</b> by Sergio Holas Véliz ( <i>Poems</i> )	116
<b>The Making of Man</b> by Oscar del Pozo ( <i>Painting and details</i> )	118, 129 & 139
<b>The Making of My Place</b> by Oscar del Pozo ( <i>Painting and details</i> )	135 & 149
<b>Biographical Notes</b>	150