

## the jester

### Jay Cummings

the jester enters the court of the king  
exclaiming "which song will you have me sing?"  
the king sits and thinks, "this fool and their tone"  
and he noticed they showed up alone.  
the king says "play me something that shows your best ability"  
hoping to save some of their civility.

the jester then puts on their show  
singing a song the king does not know.  
however the notes do come out foul  
and singing like a mules howl.  
yet the jester continues to play  
unaware to the mess in the entryway.

on they sing about the praises of the king  
proclaiming that the king is their favorite thing.  
only to realize when the show is done  
that it wasn't the king's favor they won  
instead is a fate inside the gallows.  
"oh how shitty the king, how can he be this shallow?"  
only the answer would not soon come  
"why couldn't he have stopped what i had become?"  
because their head is now in a basket  
the village idiot lowered into their casket.

## Cummings | *Floodwall*

the true answer, that they failed to see  
was no matter who the jester may be  
they will always fail and fall far behind  
because they must know who to be ahead of time.

**Jay Cummings** is a psychology major at UND. They have been writing in their off-time since high school, and enjoy writing poems and novellas.