THURSDAY: ROUGH BEAST

> *Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,*
> *The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere*
> *The ceremony of innocence is drowned;*
> *The best lack all conviction, while the worst*
> *Are full of passionate intensity.*
>
> – excerpt, The Second Coming by William Butler Yeats, c. 1919

This lovely bit of atmospheric electronica by *åpne sinn* from the 2012 album entitled *en seier* is an odd fit for the anarchic theme. *en seier* is Norwegian for 'one victory', which is how *åpne sinn*'s Steve Brand characterizes each day of life after surviving a heart attack, a personal apocalypse like Yeats' rough beast of The Second Coming.

The last couple of weeks culminating in today's Brexit referendum feel like the onset of a global heart attack. Hope we enjoy a victory after this strife, but it's too soon for more than hope.

Still a little off, not up to any more reading today after staying up far too late watching the House Democrats' sit-in protest last night. Here's a few things worth looking at:

- **DIESELGATE:** Fuzzy definition of 'cold' may have led to EU passenger diesel cars' spewing more NOX than expected (Ars Technica) – This means ALL EU makers of passenger diesels, not just Volkswagen Group, are producing too much NOX at

low temperatures within an unclear range of ‘cold’. We’ve already seen a lawsuit in the U.S. against Mercedes for this reason.

- **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:** ‘Concrete Risks in AI Safety’ (paper, PDF at arXiv.org) – Researchers from Google Brain, OpenAI, Stanford University and UCBerkeley looked at the potential risks of using AI. specifically

> …the problem of accidents in machine learning systems. We define accidents as unintended and harmful behavior that may emerge from machine learning systems when we specify the wrong objective function, are not careful about the learning process, or commit other machine learning-related implementation errors.

Worthwhile read, but I see a problem already, though, a blindspot they come so close to resolving but fail to recognize. The research team is not particularly diverse, nor is the AI development community. They will program systems based on a world as they understand it, not as it is even though they believe they are programming for a rich and noisy environment. The results will be far worse than blue screens of death.

- **ELECTRIC VEHICLES:** Siemens suggests trucks powered by catenary electric lines (QZ)

– Interesting concept, using electricity a la late 1800s trolley cars versus expensive and weighty batteries. But the infrastructure required…I don't know. But that's a lot more potential profit for Siemens, eh?

- **ZIKA VIRUS:** Lame Congress funding bill on Zika defense is lame (Jezebel) – Really can't improve on Jezebel's hed: '*Amid Gun Control Protests, House Passes a Shitty, Ineffective Zika Virus Bill*'. Yeah, that, especially the part where religious fanatics put their personal faith ahead of suffering by ensuring no funds are used by Planned Parenthood for birth control to prevent conception by persons infected with Zika. *Hey You Radical Fundamentalist Anti-Science Freaks In Congress: Get Ready To Pay For Many Microcephalic Babies' Lifetimes And Guillain-Barré Syndrome Care.* Pro-life my left arse cheek. More like pro-torture for women and babies.

That’s enough for today, I need to reserve my strength for the outcome of the Brexit referendum. Toodles.