

## On Ginsberg's "America"

- (1) Sydney, I've given you everything now I'm spent. 1  
This was how Ginsberg started.
- (2) Sydney, the scabs of a 20-buck blowjob in my pocket, November 7, 1984.  
He gave us an exact amount and date.  
He was almost penniless. 5  
But his purchasing power in 1956 was almost equivalent to twenty dollars today. You could buy a decent meal for one dollar back then.  
I can't stand my own mind, said Ginsberg in line three.  
After that confession, he accelerates out of history and time  
Fusing politics, psychiatric illness, cosmic concepts and mystical elements with everyday ephemera, ironic takes on propaganda and advertising tiles.  
About 80 per cent of the remaining statements-as-lines in AMERICA attain greatness. 10  
That's 56 out of 73 lines. Insert tick.
- (3) Appropriate line three. Shift.
- (4) Sydney when will you stop fighting this Punic War?
- (5) Go fuck yourself with your laconic racism.
- (6) You're hell and I'm normal, Sydney. Hotter than Ancient Greece on your chest. 15
- (7) When will you finally be done with Indigenous genocide?
- (8) We need to take off the scales.
- (9) Your history of pestilence, killing, gold fever, corruption and war is like TV on fast forward, Sydney.
- (10) When will you stop deferring?
- (11) You've really got to look into that Queen. 20
- (12) Australia is not the greatest country on Earth no such place exists you've always known that: it's just a slogan.
- (13) When did you become a nation of haters?
- (14) You never believed in God, Sydney, stop pretending.
- (15) Your silly mood is silly like American silly but small.
- (16) The Trump want eat us live. He makin' us all-new enjuns. His honyemen got guns work sixteen hours no insurance. 25
- (17) Fuck American exceptionalism.
- (18) China is a war factory too.
- (19) Australians you also love war stop pretending.
- (20) Cultural cringe is OK.
- (21) They're all c\*\*ts up-over-there believe me I've read about it in magazines the bartender told me as well just be patient. 30
- (22) Australia, your women are wavering.
- (23) Religion is pouring out of Seven-Elevens. It's in malls on Sunday now not churches.
- (24) It will hit me hard when you fail, Sydney.
- (25) Sydney, old men with ray guns should fight wars not children.
- (26) Litotes is Australian for rap. 35
- (27) Sydney, it is better to fail BIG by miscalculation abyss or new abyss to guess disappear tongues where does it all go instinct major telegrams.
- (28) Insert list of persecuted liberal figures  
(Ginsberg cites Tom Mooney, Scatto, Vanzetti and the Scottsboro boys)  
Sydney
- (29) FREE THE ANANDA MARGA THREE was sprayed on the police barracks wall. 40
- (30) The cops made no effort to erase it.
- (31) Sydney, when will the Rum Corps leave town?

(32) Make them take Kerr, the New Guard, Niemeyer, White Australia, and [INSERT OTHERS] if there's space

(33) Sydney, we can fill up all the empty refugee boats with soft fascists and float them to Asia

(34) Ana is dead, Sydney, you killed her. 45

This is the type of statement that Ginsberg never makes  
That's what makes his poem great  
He only shifts to the personal to express his own angst (see ll. 22–23, 30, 34, 47–53)

(34b) These are the worst times  
[exclude lines 6, 14, 24, 71–73 and definitely not line 36 which is the start of the whole Sixties shebang]  
These are all great 50

(35) I am equivocal about line 45, Ginsberg

(36) The closer I get to the end of this work the more life loses value, Sydney

(37) Most of the time I wish I was dead like Line 4 of “Kaddish” the one that says **Death is that remedy**

(38) Every time we move away from Naturalism towards technique I feel better about things, Sydney

(39) Sydney, all art aspires to the thickness of text 55

(40) Fuck Apollo

(41) Your big book has to be postmodern, Sydney, because you are a postmodern place

(42) INSERT AS REQUIRED [END]

A total of 62 lines including this line and the next 3 lines  
I want to stop now Sydney I got nothing more to say. 60  
It's perfectly OK  
If I am less than Ginsberg

85% of

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