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The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

The *artist* is the one who most helps to create the future and is the greatest opinion leader-much greater than he politician! The politician being a public servant must realize this and act accordingly or suffer the consequences of his unethical actions thereof. Piracy and copyright infringement result in loss of artistic treasures due to their impact on the *artist* him/herself. Society thrives on, more than anything else, its enrichment by the *artist*. The criminal does accomplish absolutely no enrichment whatsoever of society. Do we continue to protect the criminal or do we begin to protect the artist? I honestly do not believe it's that tough of a question.

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## LOSS

Have you ever thought  
how the poor artist  
is dragged down by this body  
hampered as he is  
with its needs?

Were it not for sleep for example  
would not the artist  
be engaged in fervent activity  
all through the night?  
Greeting each new breaking day  
as does any healthy child  
the morning of his own birthday  
intense with excitement thinking  
“yet another momentous day  
one additional span of time  
in which to release  
all those innovations being needlessly  
held within me.”

All the wasted time  
devoted to “studies of,”  
the educational machine  
so fond of nurturing  
which are never to be employed  
by artist same in all his career.  
Has that not helped to create  
an artist effete  
causing the loss of so many songs  
to this day holding their breaths  
expecting to be exhaled  
into their audience?

Graphic representations  
reaching levels of intricacy well beyond  
the all-engrossing engravings of Dore  
never to be conceived  
let alone be believed  
hoping to someday be displayed  
for all to see.

Also needing mention:  
The endless menial toil  
artist unknown must to suffer  
for to keep his own body  
sheltered from the elements.  
Possibly due to this process  
might be the prevention of his access  
to not only the greatest of symphonies  
but the most challenging concertos  
the likes of which to have never passed  
Beethoven's, Mozart's...  
nor any peer's way  
yet begging are they  
to be both conducted and performed.

Not least of all  
for this frame of reference  
is the total misery  
and pain of illness.  
Does that not constrain

great works of pastel or paint,  
exceeding the imaginable limits of Dali  
and others of like talents  
anxious only to be canvased?

Ponder may we how much  
this potential art be lost to us  
through all these centuries.  
Here have we agony  
of extreme loss.

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