

ROARSHOCK LOS ANGELES

Poolside

@ Hollywood City Inn

Not the most palatial digs

In Los Angeles

Suits the mood of my visit

And poet's frugality

Watching the changing sky

Over days and nights

Moon growing full

Unsettled vapors of cloud

And mighty winds

Of April

So, I am here why?

Exploring historical geography

And topography

Of LA

Rolling on and on

Once sandy open lands

Now full

With residences and industry

Endless roads and freeways

All the way

To the canals of Venice

Muscle Beach Boardwalk

Santa Monica Pier

To the Pacific Ocean

Lapping in and out
Disappearing west
Beyond view
Covering a great deal
Of the world
The megalopolis
Sits in its basin
Thriving lives
Millions
Of social interactions
Every moment, every day
Everywhere cars
And many people driving
In reckless abandon
Or cool confidence
In an ability
To race against time
Yet time forever
Tugs away
Out upon Pacific Ocean
To the farthest east
Where the sun rises
Every morning
A new day begins
Always has, always will
In Los Angeles
The ancient barrio
Predates United States
Mexico and Missions of Spain
And rolls

With a vast cycle
Greater and slower
Then measured time
And heaped and layered
Over this
Most every culture
From around the earth
With customs and food
Each culture
Proud to identify
All together
Make something else
A stew, a gumbo
A melting pot of peoples
LA be a company town
The entertainment business
There's no business
Like show business
The business
Straight out of New York
NY & LA
Intrinsically linked
Bond of stage and screen
Back and forth
So many costumes
And uniforms
Formal and informal
Wear abouts
Hereabouts
A diversity of dress

And languages
Spoken and written
So many others
Dressed the same
In obvious tourist drag
Truly epic
Low end food
And street food
A chili cheeseburger
@ Original Tommy's
Jazzed up
Completely over the top
Hot dog
@ Pink's
Bicycle couriers
Thai and Korean food
Delivered poolside
Searching out
The best pastrami
Phil's Deli
@ Original Farmer's Market
Right up there
Langer's Delicatessen
A nice smokey pastrami
Cantor's has world class
Ambience and they make a good
Pastrami sandwich
But not as good
As Katz's Delicatessen of Houston Street, NY.
How do people here

Have drinks in bars
I'm not sure how that's managed
In Los Angeles
Where most everybody
Drives a car
But not everyone
Buses roll around the town
And are full of poor
And less poor folks
A network of subways
And light rail
Weaved together
Far flung neighborhoods
Public transit option
Returning here
Improving better than before
Like many places
But LA
Will likely always be
A place of the private car

~ D. A. Wilson