A Paraconsistent Poem

Jeremiah Joven Joaquin

There once was this barber
Who shaves only those who do not shave themselves.
To this (Bertrand) Russell wondered
If that same barber could even shave himself.

There was this description,
“The smallest undefinable integer.”
(G. G.) Berry’s observation?
That expression defines such integer!

Epimenides once proclaimed
That all Cretans are beasts who always lie.
A weird sentence to exclaim
By a person who in Crete resides.

What, then, must we say about these notions?
All these vile contradictions of the mind?
Of course, they’re inconsistent assertions,
Paradoxes that put us in a bind.

In the face of paradox, says (Kurt) Gödel,
Abandon completeness for consistency to thrive.
(Graham) Priest and (F. G.) Asenjo play a different fiddle:
Embrace contradictions and let consistency die!

The lovers of paradox may, thus, take the ultimate route:
The route of a paraconsistent logic, of the logic of paradox.
To countenance this logic implies a significant mental turnabout.
Since it denies *ex falso quodlibet*, it’s quite unorthodox.

This paraconsistent logic may accept true contradictions
And may swallow some of them whole.
Just don’t let them prove every other proposition
Lest everything explode!

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