

A Hero of My Own

By Daniel Shao

Life leaves me pained.
I wish I were not myself.
To escape a fear so deeply ingrained,
I reach for the bookshelf,
And I become a hero.

Words on the page become the new life that I live:
Today I'm brave Perseus,
Who does all he can with all he can give.
To self-doubt and regret I'm impervious.

Within this new world I find delightful respite.
Away fades my Mountain of Work-to-be-done,
Replaced by the Mountain Olympus.
Away fade my overbearing parents,
Replaced by the sea god Poseidon,
Whose pride in me is apparent.
For this new me has the heart of a lion;
For this brave hero attempts feats that I daren't.

When the ending has come,
And my journey is done,
I return to reality,
Swearing not to succumb.

My stress is still here,
My status still grave,
But now, somehow, I don't feel any fear.
I am now brave,
And I am now strong.

For I was once Perseus, who battled the gods,
Who carved his own fate,
Despite all the odds.

I've lived many lives and gained much glory.
And with every each life I have grown and grown.
I now confront reality – my real life's story.
This time, as a hero of my own.