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A PERSONAL GRUDGE

Another millennium came and went; and they did not call me.

I would have at least smiled and waved my hands, and blown my whistle

Perhaps I might even have hopped upon the wagon and swelled the crowd.

But they did not call me.

They sang forth love and brotherhood and offered hands of welcome

To the faceless and disinherited in the quagmire of uncertainty

There was godliness in their bountless love.

To have been fed on deceit, cradled by the visionless poverty of comfortable minds And built-in souls, of shameless greed, and selective utopia;

And to have still emerged from the

And to have still emerged from the production live
Bright-eyed and discerning words from actions, motives from ideals
Speaks well of the resilence of youth and the innocence of humanity
But they did not call me.

I waited at the crossroads, hunched to the wind,
But the parade passed me by.
Their music resounded, strong and shimmering But to me, feeling its slight as cold steel upon the flesh
The rhythm had left though the beat-remained

I sensed the ogres of mystics and astrologers,
They have answered lies with facility hate with hate, conformity with comformit.
I saw the moth spiralling to its doom, a final incandescence showered visions.
Of faded tapestries, afternoon teas, flamboyant anarchists;
Crinolines, flowing dresses, and bile and pity welled within me.
The music faded; it had come and they did not call me.

FIRST POEM - AFTER THE REVOLUTION

We are the wandering men
Who dress our passions in coloured cloaks
That hide our raging souls
That swim beneath our gaunted, haunting faces.
We are the wandering men
Who have scorched your ground
And burnt the cracking towers
You built to fondle the etnereal sky.

Masters of your own illusions!

"The sky," you spoke in blind rejoice

"Is a pure white cup of honeyed bliss.

Man, in strength, must have his iron towers

Tip the philosophic cup of deep rich splendor

And down will pour the drippings of the grapes of God
Mellow wines to bathe us all in happiness."

Creators of your own delusions!

Who saw the skies as white
Who with your engines' huffing groans

That built your sacred temples to attain delight,

You painted all in smoke and sour grime

And the sky you thought you saw as white

You turned into a poisoned, blackened slime.

We are the wandering men
You caste aside as empty bottles
Thrown in the furied drunkard's craze.
We are the wandering men, naked now,
Our haunting fired faces soothed by the mists
Of smokehat mingle with the floating ash of ruined towers.

D. Bailey

THE STORM

Alone in this cold white room I sense your flowing presence your burning warmth enfolds my body captures my mind.

Piercing longings flash white fire through the empty caverns of my being.

I am alive in my illusions.

Below me a tormented sea
Thrashes rigid rocks
with green-black waters,
Mystic darknesses enshroud my sight
Through the throbbing distances
your meaning is obscure
as my own,
My reality
threatened
by strangling misconceptions I cannot undo.

In an opiate mist
I wander through my inner world
feel my Self
spiralling downward
into your anguished madness
your frenzied search for meanings.

I cannot resist but surrender to your body's vibrant giving Though an illusion -- still real.

Black churning heavens alive with chaotic tremblings Draw me into their being and I am one with this universe.

Terri Craig



REFLECTIONS

Gifts of innocence, laden with the morning nist the lilac she fondles, a lily stem she twists as we walk beside the river her locks long-live the visit of a breeze..

over her shoulder the river only seems still and quiet like the lips of her smile.

She talked of her childhood and how it has gone age was a number, birthdays were fun a woman on the stairs across the street resting on her mop in stocking feet, simply staring. but she carries on with the whisper of her shoes as they pass over the lawn talking of her childhood and how it has gone.

Duncan A. Harper

"JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE"

She was dying half naked on the beach But conscious enough to feel the surrounding peak Of curiosity.

They walked passed and casually glanced at her From her head their thoughts were registered in a blur "She's just another one of those."

Her life was spilling out so fast and cold But the sightseers weren't big enough or bold Enough, to help her.

"She was just another one of those."

Linda Poirier