

Parables

Snapple™ “Real Fact” #716: “There is a museum of strawberries in Belgium.”

So, is a museum of strawberries
part of a Belgian Smithsonian
where folk donate old tarts,
jars of jam, poured
champagne over summer berries
for public exhibit and display?

or is it some sort
of Getty, huge pay-outs,
driving the market up
for Picasso’s cubist berries,
Van Gogh’s “Self-portrait
with Berries and Cream,” Monet’s
“Strawberries in a Garden at Giverny”?

or a gaggle of geese,
a murder of crows, a pride
of lions, numbers we marvel at,
a sight we behold and pass?
*“On Thursday in the forests of Belgium,
we encountered a museum of strawberries.”*

Allegory, a Vision

The Saints smiled gravely and they said, "He's come."

(Are you washed in the blood of the lamb?)

- Vachel Lindsay, "General William Booth Enters into Heaven."

"...and then, my Fundamentalist Christian Conservative brethren,
waiting in the queue at Heaven's pearly gates,
Pat Robertson, Mike Huckabee, others,
uncovering that Heaven is totalitarian, not a republic
(Know well that God is in charge),
that this Kingdom is at least socialist
(To each according to His need;
from each according to His ability),
each left his spot in line and wandered down
to Hell, joining the waiting venture capitalists."

Have Patience

For the rose: prune carefully; grows
flowers abundant and vibrant, the rose.

For bread: flour and grains kneaded,
nourish the yeast, then rest the bread.

For a child: raise with a sure hand, word mild,
constant praise, and prayers for the child.

Upon Entering the Wrong Store

May our sons have fortune good enough
to afford a \$445.00 dress shirt
and sense enough
not to buy one.

“Desolation Wilderness – Permit Required”

-- *U.S. Forest Service Sign*

So, when the house burns down,
and the father, returned from work,
arrives to know his wife, his children,
and all he loved and valued burned up,
should he have filled out a form?

And when, driving through, you witness
the valley years after the volcano,
fallen trees combed straight as a balding man's
comb-over, exhibits on the few who died,
who sought permission for that?

When the old dog disappears after the storm,
when hail has beaten the ripening corn,
when all that's left of your lover is a note,
parting amicably, explaining her emptied closet,
what office receives that completed paperwork?