

## **Do Dogs Hear in Ultraviolet**

Do dogs hear in Ultraviolet  
Like androids dreaming of electric sheep  
Decades of conflicts and inertia  
Rooted in the myths of antiquity  
Fueled by pogroms, slavery, poverty  
Ignited by the flames  
Of entitlement and wealth  
Palestinians and Israelis  
Each wanting the land for themselves  
Unable to fathom the humanity of each other  
Leading to continuous chaos and death  
Religion (the opiate) comes in stagnant forms  
Remains as solace and comfort  
To many in dark times  
Created by the ancients  
Trafficked by zealots  
Rationalizing fear of the unknown  
Blind to “civilized” progress and science  
Providing a foundation, an underpinning  
Of disharmony, discord, and wars  
Disputes over deserts (those large tracts of sand)  
Or once forested landmasses  
Now dotted by farms, factories,  
Villages, cities, and towns  
Monuments and testaments to man  
Disputes over governance  
Even in the “enlightened” west  
White nationalists and their ilk professing  
A bastardized Protestantism  
Afraid, like the ancients, of the Unknown  
The Unknown---- anything or any person  
Perceived to be different from them  
By visage or skin tone, language,  
Mode of speech, customs, habits or dress,

Choices of lovers or lifestyles  
Gone are the constraints of  
Myriad religious tomes  
Promulgating ethical standards  
To walk your own path to enlightenment  
Do unto others, love thy neighbor, do no harm  
Or edicts to feed the hungry, clothe the poor,  
Invite the stranger in who knocks at the door

Do dogs hear in Ultraviolet  
Like androids dreaming of electric sheep  
Proving entropy rules all  
Do hummingbirds hear phantom buzzing  
Like tinnitus when they sleep  
Do adolescents after hearing “the Talk”  
Still hold their heads proudly  
And walk the walk  
As their parents and family and lovers  
Fear for their lives  
Some politicians and their toadies,  
Brandishing bibles, toting guns  
Clinging to the fiction of the  
“Greatness” of our nation’s past,  
Believe every person, like America First,  
Should be an island alone to itself  
Relying on firearms and munitions  
To keep out the Unknown

Do dogs hear in Ultraviolet  
Like androids dreaming of electric sheep  
Adiabatic process will not release the heat  
Anarchists and Nihilists aim to perturb  
Deconstruct and demolish  
Governments, societal norms  
Leaving only  
Devastation and postapocalyptic wastelands

With no order or hope  
Leaving all to fend for themselves  
Like Schrödinger's cat in its box  
In the horseshoe construct of politics  
Far Right and Far Left philosophies  
Circuitously will diverge so far  
From the structures center (the middle)  
That they will join  
Together at the horseshoe's apex  
Forming an imperfect annular structure  
The vaccinated will likely  
Emerge to form a new order  
As the virus culls all  
Of those confined by futile  
Allegiance to conspiracy theories  
Detached from reality  
Grounded in anti-science and hostility  
Defaming and mistrusting  
Physician public servants  
Oath Keepers for real  
Holding true to Hippocrates  
A special oath taken  
Obligations to render aid  
And privacy respect  
To ameliorate illness and cure disease  
Providing tools and knowledge  
Humankind to protect.

## *Quinceañera*

I sit for my formal portrait before the reception  
My ball gown poofed out spread gently around  
This formal garment chosen with love and care  
My madre, abuela, both carnilita accompanied me  
Talking and giggling encouraging my sense of myself  
Until this beautiful gown to us all appealed  
Then with the dressmakers touch and skill  
It fits me and this occasion perfectly  
Today is my birthday I am 15 years wise  
*Quinceañera* a day long celebration will be  
My transition from childhood to the adult morph of me  
As a tomboy I had felt betrayed  
When at 12 and one half  
My body revolted and bled through my clothes  
Fortunately for me, it happened at home  
My parents had prepared me as best as they could  
There had been instruction at school  
Nothing equipped me for that as it should  
So today will be symbolic more than real  
As I sit being photographed  
My thoughts range far and wide  
I dwell on what life will be like after tonight  
Today began with a Mass  
Where I was singled out  
I know the liturgies by heart  
Playing the role prescribed for me  
Communing as the “maid of honor”  
A catholic sigil on several levels  
I lost my faith a year ago  
When darkness took my soul  
I questioned all that surrounded me  
Is this all there is to life  
Why should I even be  
I struggled alone for several weeks

Still unsure how I did it  
But I made the slow painful climb  
Up from the pit  
I finally felt safe when away I flushed  
Those pills I had stashed  
Taken from my grandfathers bureau  
After his death  
Left me with a hole in my heart  
Dark clouds in my mind  
During that period my grades  
Took a tumble I was falling behind  
Since expunging the dark times of last year  
My grades just like me have been resuscitated  
I can again think of college  
What occupation I will find  
I now feel like the lioness  
That resides deep inside  
Can finally be let out of her cage  
I practice piano and play on the stage  
Music will comfort and guide my way  
I can envision travel by plane or train  
To distant destinations  
Alone unafraid

I am happy that I am in a better place now  
Soon the photo shoot will end  
Let the reception and party begin  
Looking forward to this passage  
From youth to womanhood  
Wearing the tiara from church  
A grand entrance I will make  
With my chambelains and my damas swirling around  
My parents will toast me  
With the guests all seated round  
Then brought to the center of the hall  
Seated on the throne the belle of the ball  
My father will remove my sandals

Place new high heels on my feet  
Representing acceptance into the land of adults  
A waltz will begin with him taking my hand  
Leading me gently with tears in his eyes  
Swirling around the floor by ourselves  
When the next song begins,  
Papa will allow me  
To take my escorts hand  
My first real boyfriend will twirl me away  
To begin the court dance as I move and sway  
Joined by my attendant girls and boys  
Eventually family and friends  
At some point between eating and dancing  
My parents will present a new doll to me  
This I will then gift to my little sister  
Now as a young woman I need no toys  
Again, I feel the lioness  
That resides deep inside  
Can finally be let out of her cage  
She's ready to roar  
Take control of the environment surrounding me  
Let me explore  
All that life has to offer  
Alone unafraid

## **The Afton and The Kearney**

There is an ancient place  
Remote, wild  
Where giant trees reach for the stars  
Where well-worn mountains  
Rise then plunge deep down into  
Verdant valleys, savannahs, and plains  
Here arising from an unnamed  
Mountain lake  
The sweet Afton flows  
Gentle but strong  
Runs unabated down to the steppes  
The headwater of the Kearney  
Is a primordial spring  
That burbles and bubbles up from the earth  
Gathering power, force  
From rivulets and creeks  
Runs over precipices as  
Loud waterfalls, rapidly  
Tumbling through boulders  
Deep in a valley these two  
Untamed rivers conjoin  
At this confluence  
The Afton speeds up  
The Kearney slows down  
Melding together  
Mimicking the Orinoco  
In power and strength  
Moving always forward  
Toward the adventures that await  
Sometimes fast  
Sometimes slow  
But always forward  
Full of life  
Fish in the water  
Beasts on the shore  
Being nurtured and nurturing  
Possibilities endless  
Coalescing into the ocean of life

## Like Twins Conjoined

Over the years  
As our love grew  
We became entwined  
Like twins conjoined  
We shared our laughs our cries  
Our joys our sorrows  
Our hearts beat as one  
Frustrations at work  
Frustrations with societal taboos  
We faced all together  
United never apart  
We talked about children  
Then let that alone  
But now you  
Want to climb mountains  
Experience new ventures  
Mingle with friends  
Explore the wide world outside  
Enrich your soul  
Now I want  
To go to the meadow  
Surrounded by pines  
Bubbling brooks  
Immerse in my gardens  
Tend to our flowers  
Read my books  
Watch the birds fly  
Enrich my soul  
We are still entwined  
Like twins conjoined  
Our bond will stretch  
But  
With our enduring love  
Cannot be sundered



## **Fifteen Hundred Dead**

Hear! In the last decade alone  
Fifteen hundred dead  
From Aurora to Uvalde  
Las Vegas to Roseland  
Orlando to Parkland  
San Bernadino to Newtown  
And beyond runs the thread  
Encompassing all four corners  
Of this vast beautiful land  
When will we the people  
Take a stand  
Against weapons of war  
In the hands  
Of the insane  
Inhumane  
Denizens of the darkness  
Fed lies, encouraged to hate  
By dark web podcasts  
Like minded abettors  
Unconscienced TV pundits  
Spewing mistruths, animosity  
Towards those of different  
“Faith”, predilections, or ethnicity  
Right-wing politicians whose  
Post-carnage tweets and rants  
On the airways espoused  
Are so common that  
They appear mimeographed  
Passed around to each other  
Cut then pasted together  
Each one sounding the same  
**“Heartbroken**  
**Horrified**  
**We pray for them**  
**Thank first responders**

**Lift the community in prayer”**

Like **the** moment of silence  
It's too much to bear  
No condemnation of gun violence  
No plan pushed forward to  
Break the monopoly of  
Gun lobbyists and the NRA  
No call to remove these  
Sadistic war weapons  
Anyone seemingly can buy  
Small arms and rifles available  
From your local box store  
Large areas of America  
Require no background checks  
Leaving us scratching our heads,  
Perplexed  
See “gun shows” for context  
Mental health alarms are not in place  
To flag individuals who wish harm  
(Death) to themselves and especially others  
Radicalized demons seem to stick to their kind  
Making preemptive interdiction blind