

LEARNING TO BE:
POEMS FROM BED 23C

04/06/21

Red, Red Rose

In the moments between lift-off and flight
Here at Grand Valley Healthcare Center in Van Nuys, CA
I meditate on you

Your Sistine Chapel eyes
Frozen butterflies
Rainbow sighs

The way you sashay and sway
Like an antelope at the dusk of day

Your sense of humor
Light but prepared for a heavyweight fight

The way you bend at the hip
Raining grace from both lips

The curve of your back
Breasts pulling
Chest pushing

I love you
Now and forever

Your hands soft as dew
Your feet nimble as this ball of blue

Sprinting no doubt through any zoo or
Atomic bomb blast on cue

02/27/21

Second Class Citizen

Seeing the handful of African Americans working here in the nursing home
Forced me to consider the problem

The police
In their brutal unknowing

Politicians
In their desperate selfishness

Corporations
In their elite arrogance

Academy Awards and Golden Globes
For their redundant ignorance

Society
In its racist underbelly

I am a man
Not a dog

I eat and drink
The same air as you

My skin color
Is your skin color

My children
Mix with your children

My God
Is the same as your God

In this crimson rhapsody of an existence
I am your brother and sister

Friend and neighbor
Doctor and teacher

Turn your head and I am there
For better or worse

As rainbow or curse

In a throne or hearse

Jesus or Judas

I am human like you

05/09/21

The Kitten is Dead

At 59

Two days before Mother's Day

Tawny Kitaen was found dead

At her home in Newport Beach, CA

I found-out from the internet on my laptop

Here in room 23 at Grand Valley Healthcare Center in Van Nuys, CA

It does not matter how she died

Another victim of rock n' roll's drug and alcohol-fueled meat grinder

Has succumbed to its no substance or content binder

Who was she?

Did anyone really know her?

Was she ever loved?

Did she die of a broken heart?

She will live on in 1980's music videos

But could she have lived longer had she not been a small screen queen?

We shall never know

But this we do:

Know yourself and listen to your soul

Before you in life enroll

Leaving a corpse behind before 60 is not God's goal

Enlightenment rids of the mole

05/09/21

Mother's Day in Early May

Here at Grand Valley Healthcare Center in Van Nuys, CA
The day for mother in the cathedral of her father
Apparent in the courtyard in the back

Where the palm tree breathes light from above
Branches swaying in the slight breeze

Neon sunshine ricocheting off the tree's long and thin
Pistachio-colored arms

The bronze warrior in the bubble gum sky
Shimmering far and high

Families sitting at the black iron picnic table
Raising a glass and some Brie on white bread
To the American mother in her:

Laborious lead
Wounded wonder
And delicate despair

Admirable ardor and
Wasted whimsy

God sees you
God knows you
God loves you

05/01/21

Burning Blue

This dark blue Crayola marble
Has no beginning or end

Looking at the sky
Here in bed 23C at the home for the aged

Rivers merge
Water falls
And stalls

This asteroid hanging daquiri green
On an Orchid scene

Leaving me in a Fellini dream
Like a fat James Dean

This turquoise orb
Bludgeoning sun and moon
Like toy balloon

Visiting the living room
Like an insane baboon

This earth giving birth
To a cobalt dearth