

Crawling Out from Under Partly Cloudy

Outside the tempest storms—
West Texas thunder, lightning
wind and rain and pea size hail
and golf ball size hail and softball
size hail and TV touted tornado.

After a feeling of forever — angry
attack of the elements is repelled.
Sprinkling straggler raindrops
pepper peeled ragged roof remains.
Final rolling thunder-guns
fire in the distance.

Is it over for the night? Tune in to
KTAB-32. Randy will tell you
after a word from our sponsor—
if you still have electricity
if you still have a house
if you're still alive.

Now truly! Our favoring God choice
has again regained control.
Preserving our and His
little pseudo-religious community
save a sacrificial bit of sinful materialism.
Praise the grace of Jesus.

Capture and Release

Three days ago
a big green horsefly
buzzed into my kitchen.

She appliquéd herself
to one plastic ribbon slat
of the blond window blinds
over my steel kitchen sink.

I ignored her
until tonight when
I wanted to practice
my newly learned
"thinking with my heart."

So I focused on her.
I asked about her dreams,
desires, longings, regrets.
She flew away.
I assumed I had failed
to communicate with my heart,

but I turned and
spied her bump-kissing
the kitchen window.
I cracked the door,
and she zipped out—
whirring fly profanities
about captivity.

George Washington Carver said,
anything
will give up its secrets
if you love it enough,
but he was talking about peanuts.

My fly
didn't want love or peanuts.
She wanted out—
so she patronized me
and sought opportunity.

I vastly underestimated
this technique—
thinking with my heart.
It had almost made her
human.

Mutual Maid Service

Beware of a person
who hangs their commitments
on the clothes line of irresponsibility,
allows you to bring in the laundry,
and then wants to know
why you haven't folded them yet.
Do more than beware. Run. Especially
if you can still hear the washer running.

Unilateral maid service works
only in hotels
and other situations
where you're just passing through.

But mutual maid service
is a beautiful thing
that results in clean clothes
and a house full of sweet smelling joy.

Simply Elegant Times

All I want
is to have
a personal relationship
with a baby gnat.

I, in the rapturous
early morning sunshine
and birdsong
of this oncoming day,
sit still.

Alert and aware,
I tune
my presence of mind.
Buzzing a bold introduction
the baby gnat approaches.

I greet her
with the respect and attention
she deserves—
and that will be my template
for today's relationships
with all of life.

These are simply elegant times
when all I need
to begin a great day
is to have
a personal relationship
with a baby gnat.

Taoist Tangle

Lao Tzu says — the value of a room
is not measured
by its wooden walls,
but by the empty space within.

The value of a water pitcher
is not measured by its clay form,
but by the empty space within.

The value of my intelligence
is not measured by my skull,
but by the — oh, never mind.

New and selected Philosophy-Lite

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*Litely on my mind
(her)*

Easy Keeper

A good woman is much rarer
than a good horse or dog.

Good for all is defined as:
responds to praise and dependability
and is satisfied the next day with
exactly what they got the day before.

If you find that woman though—
be satisfied with one.

Don't try to keep a pack or a herd
'cause even Solomon in all his wisdom
couldn't keep 'em very well in groups.

Very Soon Susan

Now's the time to ache
and cry and plan,
not a time
to be patient.

This time's not a time
to throw caution to the wind
but

to fly with life's winds—
on peaceful wings of trust
to a blissful paradise
of unending love
and laughter

gliding into the soft comfort
of our time of eternal joy
that we can share
with all.

Our time is coming.

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Poetry Floats

Taking a Chance on Love

Ok,
you go first.
No, you first
no, you
okaaay. Wait!

Ok,
on the count of three
I will if you will.

1 — 2 — 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Okaaay. Wait!

Ok,
Let's close eyes,
hold hands,
and jump together.
Okaaaaaay.

Wow!