

POEM OF THE WEEK

CAVEAT EMPTOR

1

There are things I don't want to discuss
Or think about, even. Things that fill my mind
Demand attention. Subjects? Living, dying
Preparing for death. Yes, such things fill my mind

Intruding at unwelcome hours and times
Sneering, remember me? Sneering, you do, don't you!
The great poet, the wonder with words, terrified
Of your own shadow, our other self, you don't want to recognise

Loneliness, aloneness, solitude; you like playing with such words
You prefer solitude, being alone; emotional response: feeling lonely
Little experience of family, and community: feeling the one and only
Bah, humbug! You exclaim. What a load of nonsense.

Still, the emotions do not release you

Human companionship? How I mix with and relate to people
Is anyone special? Yes? No? Kind of; what do you mean?
Kind of; kind of embarrassing. No, I don't want the emotional
Constraints and restraints; everything that goes with it

Welcome to my head. Move respectfully, many of who I know are dead
I think of it as a library, full of old books and technology, which helps my psychology
I could be dramatic, and say "Beware of the ghosts" They won't hurt you
They're busy enough to keep me awake at night

Between feeling lonely, isolated, embarrassed
and possibly delusional, I'm fine
There are things too painful to discuss
So I don't

Did you read or see the news today?

2

I READ THE NEWS TODAY

I read the news today, oh yeah
'Twasn't on paper; 'twasn't verbal
I read it on Facebook, the arbiter
Of all things. I picked the topics

Among the memes, the cat pictures
I sought information, enlightenment
Understanding; that forever elusive "Aha!"
I did not find it. Am I to blame?

Russians in Ukraine, tourists they are not
Russians in Ukraine tell their own story
Are there two sides? Does aggression by one
Negate the others? Bah, humbug

I read the news today, as I did the day before
And the day before that; I don't watch "the news"
on television (too much advertising and a noticeable
Presence of bias). I've made my choice

I read the news; I've done my research
I thought I might be happier, informed perhaps
Trump still stalks America, Republicans prevaricate
China has its problems; Russia's in a quagmire

Of its own history and making

Tomorrow? Will I read the news; it's become a habit
Or seek more pleasurable pursuits? Tell me more
Are there things of which I can be sure?
If not, is ignorance a state (of being) or a choice?

Caveat emptor

3

Caveat Emptor

Means literally
"Let the buyer beware"
It is a legal principle
that a person who
buys something is
responsible for finding
any faults in the thing
they buy

As a lesson in life
Examine what you
Buy, do or plan to
With care

Once you commit
There's no credit
No return. No warning
Other than

Caveat emptor

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