

# POEM OF THE WEEK

## DEMONS

Demons are evil; demons are ugly  
Demons cause pain, make people cry  
Demons cause accidents; people die  
Demons cause catastrophes

Demons demonise, demonstrate  
Demand, command; have no patience  
What they want, they want now  
(Sound in any way familiar?)

Might I suggest an idea?  
That if demons are real,  
They might need re-defining.  
A demon is not self-defining

Discussions regarding demons  
Are old as humanity  
As old as religion  
A question: does religion

Has a pre-requisite for demons?

To study demons is equivalent  
To study evil, yes?  
Are the two synonymous  
Or is that a cultural choice?

Some might say there is a problem with pain  
It is a natural response to being physically wounded  
Or hurt. Thus, what's the problem? We learn from it  
And become a more responsive and responsible creature

Pain is not necessarily good or bad, this line of thought  
Says: it happens when we choose wrongly.  
Is Good vs Evil a question; or a theological assertion?  
I don't know. I would like to examine "evil" as a secular matter

Do demons demonise? No. Humans demonise other humans  
For being different, with increasingly destructive effects.  
No one makes them or forces them to do so; it is their choice  
Ruling elites might encourage such exclusion; they are powerless

To influence anything without the active participation of the populace  
The ruling elite declares itself a priori "Good";

the excluded are declared a priori "Evil"  
The "selected" need not rationalise or explain their behaviour

The situation becomes a neat equation; the result is beyond question  
Right is declared might; the excluded become persecuted, pressured  
Prosecuted, awaiting the flame to ignite the righteous punishment awaiting them  
Not an ugly deformed demon in sight, interesting, huh.

The reign of the uneducated and unenlightened became evident  
in the persecution and prosecution of "witches" in the Middle Ages  
And was apparent in Nazi Germany in the years leading up  
to the murder of millions in concentration camps

The Gestapo looked frightening, but demons? I think not  
Terrifying in action and thought? Absolutely.

So, here's my problem: where are the demons?  
In someone's head? A group mental creation?  
The formula for potential violence is predicated  
In a "them/us" situation; rejecting a "we"

"We" can scare ourselves stupid by ourselves

Leslie D. Bush  
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