

# POEM OF THE WEEK

## HUMAN VALUE AND THE VALUE OF HUMANS

Who's to measure? Who's to compare?  
Lions and tigers and bears don't care  
Frogs and lizards are not aware  
And I imagine advanced civilisations

(Aliens) think of us as prey to snare

It has been argued, "Humanity, human beings  
Are the apex of civilisation, and evolution.". Yes?  
It could. I would be in the opposition team  
My opinion is a measure of a value judgement

If the question to be debated, were to be re-phrased  
"Human beings have evolved to be adaptive, highly complex  
Beings, and have the capacity for actions good or bad"  
You've got me, I'll gladly be on the side arguing for it

Humans are capable of (nearly) anything  
We communicate with spacecraft millions of miles away  
We seek to control diseases individually and in mass  
We can Love, the biggest gift of all

We equally can destroy towns, cities, the planet  
So, what is left to defend? Humans defy the absolute  
They are unpredictable as to what situation they might be found in  
Once located the laws of probability might (or might not) be applied

There is a qualitative difference between the two variants identified in the title  
The Value of humans has different points of reference: Productivity  
Output, the ability to work effectively as a team; the "value" is an outcome or product  
Pretty much, the value placed on a worker by the capitalist system

"Human Value" is the individual's "Human-ness"; it is far harder and elusive to find  
There are some (many?) who might sneer and say "elusive? Doesn't exist!"  
They are permitted their opinion. It's the sum of the little things they do  
Acts of kindness, given without expectation of reward; given out of love or kindness

Yes, things go wrong, they may get angry and do something they regret  
They do their best to amend or fix. Here, they demonstrate the value of learning  
And changing their behaviour. Humans are responsive beings; reacting to  
And learning from their environment. The nature of the environment

Might (or might not) shape the learned behaviour. Humans are unpredictable  
Individually and collectively. It is the mass, the crowd, that their behaviour

Becomes predictable. HUMAN VALUE AND THE VALUE OF HUMANS  
Is the title of this poem. "Human value?" Vast and unmeasurable

"The Value of Humans?" Untapped, under-measured and profit-driven

Leslie D Bush  
© 16 October 2022

Published in Post Modern Voices Volume 8