

Behind the Mask

By Mike Berger

Shrieks stabbed the heavy air as
tortured souls cried out in pain.
Blood dripped from a severed ear
of a boy. Chains held him up right
when he passed out from pain.

Another poor soul moaned in deep
agony. Sores festered where where
red hot pokers stabbed. Limply
hanging against his chains, he begged
to be put to death.

Surly guards laughed at the pain;
they had done their work well.
They are troubled by the old men
who a stoic look.

He bled usually from a thousand
cuts and a gouged out left eye. A
guard asked if he wanted more.
The old man whispered; the guard
leaned near.

With a smile on his face, the old
man spit in the guards face.

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Purification

By Mike Berger

A frenzy crowd did their grisly work.
Black smoke filled the sky. Each
person having a stick or two to the
pyre. Shrieks lasted only a moment;
death to the heretics.

Given the chance, they wouldn't recant.
Burning to death was too good for their
entire lot. Send them back to hell where
they belong.

Mixing among us as if they had the right.
Building tears to their strange God.
Claiming to be God's chosen people.

Spreading like a plague; evil fruits
of the loins. With a good book and fire
we will charge them from our midst.

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Genocide

By Mike Berger

Anxiety runs rampant today.
Newspapers make you depressed.
You read of carnage everywhere.
Do rogue nations have the bomb?

The faltering economy brings despair.
The mortgage fiasco is sorrow itself..
In an instant your retirement disappears
as the euro rallies against the dollar.

Our nation is divided in a dozen ways.
Our leadership is like amorphous clay
Shrinks tell you how to live your life
You sleepwalk thru each day barely alive.

The boob tube assuages our concern
It sends out engraved invitations.
Inviting you to bury your head in the sand
Let genocide rage Our government takes
no action: Uncle Sam is afraid to get egg
on his face

We don't need to take a second look.
After all, what difference can you make?
So kick your mind out of the worry mode.
Flop in your easy chair and grab the remote.

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