

Red and Blue

It's a family tradition that once every year,
we all gather together from far and near.
This time the reunion was going quite well,
some news to announce, a few stories to tell.
One elderly member departed, sad to say;
a new couple welcomed, with child on the way.

But then nephew Lou let loose a remark
on the recent election and the outlook so stark.
It seems that his candidate suffered defeat
by some ultra-left liberal he loathed to unseat.
"With voters so stupid, pretty soon at this rate
our great republic becomes a socialist state."

Well, niece Teresse, who's usually quite sweet,
took issue with Lou and notched up the heat:
"Perhaps we'll finally achieve more sharing of wealth,
taking care of the needy and improving their health.
And while we're addressing the plight of the poor,
better schools in the city, and housing that's newer."

"To care for the babies their moms can't afford,
with a father that's likely no longer on board,
But more often is out with his gang on the street,
with never a care what his kids have to eat.
Who pays for this crap is what I'd like to know,
all those large welfare checks you'd so freely bestow?"

"With the money we'd save that's now wasted on arms;
most of that spending could be skipped with no harm.
Now regarding your bias and your welfare distaste,
one wonders how priorities ever got so misplaced.
We've even heard that to be a right-wing conformer,
you have to believe that we're not getting warmer."

"This whole climate change, just a lot of nonsense,
and to believe it at all you would have to be dense.
To make our great country keep moving ahead,
instead of conserving, we need more production instead.
And the best way to achieve is with nuclear power.
Without more cheap juice, our very future looks dour."

“A lot of my cohorts now bike to save gas;
our lawns are wildflowers instead of mown grass.
We recycle our discards instead of raw trash;
plastic and paper, and tin cans that we smash.
When everyone does, the less resources we need,
and with bio-tech farms, the third world we can feed.”

“Well all of your friends who are so keen to recycle
are really quite stupid, and not just a trifle.
We have plenty of oil, just need to drill more
in places you lefties have objected to bore.
The parks in Alaska, the Gulf and off-shore.
Our Middle East wars will ensure even more.”

“Then I suppose you supported our destroying Iraq!
Have you chosen where next to launch an attack?
Any nation with oil must be dead in your sights;
send in more troops and just ignore human rights.
Fighting terror by torture is becoming a cancer.
My car bumper reads: WAR’S NOT THE ANSWER.”

“In my car’s back window I proudly display:
WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS and the N.R.A.
I suppose that your atheist friends would all fuss
if I also had posted: IN GOD WE TRUST,
For I truly believe, as my Christian friends do,
that God’s on the side of the Red, White, and Blue.”

By this time most others had drifted away,
although Mary and I had decided to stay,
To make what we could of this silly debate,
which really boiled down to more of a spate.
Finally she asked for my opinion on it,
and I had this to say: Just a lot of bull____!
The one great revelation as the older we grow
is to realize how little we *actually know*.

Running the world is a most difficult task,
and to do it with stickers is too much to ask.
Slogans and platitudes, they’re even worse,
and *us against them*, that’s the ultimate curse.
I don’t think we’d ever be having much peace
with a lordship made up of just Lou and Teresse.
A little humility might help pave the way,
as we struggle and strive toward a brighter someday.