

to share horror stories
lend support
a local poet with scarf & beret
read a few of her things
they weren't much
compared to her superior attitude
she split without listening
to the other speakers
it's like when Bob Hope
deigns to appear on the Tonight Show
for just a few minutes
one of her things can be found
in WR #108
don't miss it

3 words of gentle advice

I've been watching them for years
with their canes & crutches & walkers
struggling
to get in & out
trying to find the door handle
unable to pull it open
or to slam the door shut
they just keep coming & going
with the same rueful smile
they look up at me & always say:
"Don't get old."
they don't offer much hope
for serenity
in this country
life just gets harder
as one ages

the denial factor

you could see it operating
when Reagan ruled
a face full of wrinkles
but no gray hair
the problem goes deeper
failure is seldom acknowledged
there's lots of talk
about taking responsibility
for one's actions
but it doesn't really happen
here's a collective example:
80 million Germans under Hitler

none of them knew
what was going on
in those camps
here in Cambridge
there's a huge banner in Central Sq
GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS
MAY THEY ALL RETURN HOME SAFELY
human concern is implicit
but for whom?
our troops of course
let everyone else rot in hell
why not admit it?
religion has not taken hold
nothing else of importance has either
except the usuals
me myself & I
oh yes
you too
once in a while

rebuilt psyche

blame it on my past
or the influence of Colin Wilson
perhaps I listened to Lenny's records
too often
maybe it was a woman
who managed to get underneath
my intricate security system
a young man with an open trusting nature
in search of goodness
is just begging for hard times
I soaked up so much shit
it recoiled
not once
more like a half dozen times
in a period of 14 years
it was enough
to keep me
sorting it out
for the rest of my life

one of those American koan moments

just because I've driven
cab
doesn't mean I know anything
about cars