

POEM OF THE WEEK

YOU THOUGHT THE 1960S WERE HYSTERICAL?

The 60s were hysterical?
The 60s were historical
The 60s were radical
Undoubtedly, they were an experience

You could tell by the crowd
Revelatory, revolutionary
Revealing, reviled,
revolting, revolutionary,
contradictory, confronting

The decade was drenched in colour
An exuberant explosion of energy
You could feel it in the air
(Did they put it in the water?)
Rebellion filled the space
Between the generations
Parents and their children
Spoke different languages

I have news for you
I've lived through the decades
and have seen hope and optimism
Rise and been dashed on the rocks
Of cynicism and despair

The 60s were vibrant, loud and opinionated
They wanted the best for all
They preached inclusivity
When did that become a sin?

Hysterical?
The 60s were not hysterical
The 1st and 2nd decades of the 21st Century
deserve that title
Trump, Putin and the Republicans

Are the true heirs of Hysteria
The born-again-bigots
They can't let go of it
Or won't

Hope and optimism are

hardy things, yet fragile at the edges
Start a whisper campaign
Unfounded rumours

Make them sound funny
An edge of humour
That belies the strength
And the tragedy of the lies

Our strength as a species
Lay in our being similar
Belonging to a collective
Being human beings

Can we survive the reign?
Of ill-informed, uninformed gossip
That masquerades as an alternative
Can Truth prevail?

If it cannot
We are lost
In a world
Awaiting a tyrant

(Is he already here?)

Leslie D. Bush
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