

Winter 3-1-1996

## These Times We Live In

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### Recommended Citation

Sorenson, Paul (1996) "These Times We Live In," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 16 : No. 1 , Article 42.  
Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol16/iss1/42>

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## Warranty Intact

Awash,  
 adrift,  
 amid the wave  
 of pretty  
 pampered, painted  
 faces,  
 I am trodden,  
 trampled by  
 bottled  
 store bought beauty.  
 All big coin  
 clothes  
 photocopied and placed  
 neatly on all  
 except one misfit;  
 Me:  
 simplistic dress  
 in reference to a  
 state of mind  
 which  
 denoted beauty  
 not by slick  
 style,  
 not in cadence  
 with  
 credit cards,  
 not by the  
 dominant  
 dollar sign  
 but,  
 by the ability,  
 acceptance,  
 willingness to be  
 myself,  
 and no one else.  
 So amid these  
 waves  
 I am  
 fraught,  
 trodden,  
 caught,  
 but I remain unaltered,  
 unchanged.  
 All original parts.

- Brian Reedy

## These Times We Live In

There is a fear  
 about these times we live in  
 An ungrounded-ness,  
 An off-balance-ness

There is a fear  
 not overt but hidden  
 like water oozing thru a crack  
 in a corner

There is a fear,  
 Security is an illusion

There is a fear,  
 Truth is concealed

There is a fear,  
 The unthinkable is expected

There is a fear,  
 Justice is on the take

There is a fear  
 about these times we live in  
 Spirit is hushed  
 Anger beckons

-Paul Sorenson