So You Will Know

Mary R. Baker

College of DuPage

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So You Will Know

Our lives become cluttered with deadlines and dates,  
While newspaper headlines tell of violence and hates.

We rush through each moment, a victim of time,  
Unaware of our folly, unaware of our crime.

We rush through our greetings — “Hi Bob” “How ya doin’ Sue?”  
And before they can answer, we’re gone from their view.

We lose sight of the things that affect us the most,  
We barely touch, yet of many friends we will boast.

If you are not careful, you may miss all that is dear,  
a smile or a wave is not enough to make your meaning clear.

The regret I felt when I heard that voice from my past,  
Has embedded a sadness I know will always last.

The crime was unforivable, the punishment dear,  
The words spoken were not those I expected to hear.

Take heed of this message, don’t wait for “I never knew”.  
By sharing these simple words, “I care about you”.

Mary R. Baker

Lemming Fuse

Lemming fuse  
burn short  
the hot  
spot ralston  
on the brittle rock

Why does the herd  
njackknife pell and mell  
gleeful bounce  
seaward, pelly melly belly flop, belly flop  
flop on to the top  
of the sharp and lethal waves?

Crop of the best and the bright  
stuck in the rut of genetic  
clap trup and knows the whole marathon  
where the end lies.

Phobic of heights and rocks  
is no remedy  
cause if ya gotta let go  
then ya gotta so  
go run little sisters  
run to the edge too fast to fold back  
run to the top too far to lean back  
little time bombs tick tock tack  
don’t look back all in a pretty row  
the little time bombs try to outrace  
their little fierce clocks  
shortlegs puff-huff to the end of their flat world  
seeking the blue midnight of Mother’s ice bath  
break the sprung time timing spring  
snap fuse  
of the only world they knew.

Lee Kesselman

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