

Family Friendly Poetry Reading

Saturday, April 06, 2002

A family friendly poetry reading?

Really?

Do you mean like READERS' DIGEST?

MMMM...

I suppose some poets would go along with it...

The kind in READERS' DIGEST

The kind who don't see

Don't mind

The command

For "self" censorship

Tucked neatly in the warmly caramel apple

Phrase

OF FAMILY FRIENDLY

There ain't no "self" censorship

You are censoring art,

Words,

Intensity,

Truths,

The Audience

Down into nice mellow

Fascism

I suppose some are willing to accept this....

The kind who don't question

Questions like

Which family?

It definitely ain't my family

Not any of the expanding rings

Of my family

In fact

It is down right hostile

To my human tribal family

Which teaches our kids

How to use words

To communicate with all kinds of people

In all kinds of contexts

Openly

Deeply

Freely

Exploring all life
 With a passionate honesty,
 Sitting together
 In the yummy smelling kitchen
 Of Life
 Sitting together
 Around the tribal fires
 Generations sitting together
 Passing the talking stick around
 Telling their stories
 Revealing their desires and fears,
 Wisdom and folly
 Exploring myths...
 Listening and telling
 Into the center of respect and acceptance...
 All the family listening
 All tell
 In their own ways...
 Silly little sister
 Wise grandma
 Hot angry brother
 Mother finding new words
 Dad listening to family voices...
 All beyond taboos
 In this sacred ritual of telling.

I don't really know what to make of this
 Hostile FAMILY FRIENDLY...
 OK,
 I do.
 This is making poetry,
 All art,
 Into a hallmark lapdog
 Of the brainwashing "socialization"
 Of little lily and billy
 Reinforcing SCHOOL/CHURCH/CORPORATE shallow
 Dogma,
 Using us poets
 To be the shallow virus dogma carriers,
 Thinking
 FAMILY FRIENDLY can ever be
 Anything but enforced shallow reality
 On everyone

Sure,

When I read at schools

I play by THE RULES

Not because of the kids

But to get into the brainwashing camps

To slip the kids

A subversive potion of

Words/ideas/images

But shoot me

If I ever read at a FAMILY/KIDS FRIENDLY POETRY READING...

No...

Shoot the fascist's parents!

Think fast!

A loving couple lovingly f...

In your head,

What did you hear for F?

Did I just cross the line?

Hope so!