

# POEM OF THE WEEK

## HOW DARE WE?

How dare we  
How can we  
In the 2nd decade  
In the 21st Century

Speak of ourselves  
As “civilised”? Use  
The word “civilised”  
To include the idea

Of progress and growth  
In collective emotional  
Maturity and empathy;  
Suggests that “society”

As an organism growing  
In complexity and having  
Comfort and undersatandung  
Of it? Fiddle dee dah

What do we look back on?  
A century of genocides  
Atomic weapons and  
Biological warfare

And the 13-year attack  
On the employment status  
Homeownership and  
Disenfranchisement

Of the Jewish population  
In Germany, leading to  
The death of the Jewish  
People across the occupied

Territory of Eastern Europe  
France and Italy. This massacre  
is remembered as The Shoah  
Or the Holocaust, and should

Be burned into the mind  
Of every citizen of every country  
That WE, as a collective, turned away  
When we were most needed\*

In an increasingly conservative society  
Language is under attack. Fear is King  
Our planet is dying due to profiteers not caring  
And masses of people, saying, "What can we do?"

It doesn't seem like civilisation to me

It feels like defeat, a defeat that  
By taking the easiest way out  
And avoiding responsibility  
We each added to

What do we do  
What can we do  
(Never, what ought we do?)  
Scream and shout?

Leslie D. Bush  
© 1 March 2024