

## POETRY

### **Mortify**

*Reg Johanson*

In the holy peace of Good Friday  
There's no production today  
How can I afford this time?  
My check is in my bank account  
Relaxes me I'm safe, I don't have to work  
If I need food I can go to the grocery store  
They have food there  
It comes from somewhere else  
I don't have to worry  
They grow the food somewhere  
And I can buy it at the grocery store  
If I have money I can depend on being  
Able to buy food at the grocery store  
That's where I can find food when I need it  
Farmers continue to grow it  
Somebody buys it then  
Sells it to me  
So I don't have to grow it myself  
I don't have to worry about that  
Somebody else worries about growing the food  
I just have to worry about getting a paycheck  
Just focus on that just make sure I get a paycheck

Somebody sells something that others want to buy  
And I make that thing and get money for it  
I hope that somebody wants to buy that thing I make  
From the person I make it for  
If they don't want to buy it anymore  
I will lose my job and I won't be able to buy the food  
The farmers worry about growing  
My money is in the bank  
Not really but there's a number recorded there  
That's the number of money I have  
And I can ask for money up to the amount of that number  
And they will give it to me that number  
Is told to them by the employer  
The employer keeps track of the number of time I work  
And then multiplies that number by the number  
Of money per unit that the employer agrees to pay me  
And then the employer tells the bank the total number  
And the bank keeps track of that number  
And how much of it I have left after they give me some  
I'm safe because I have a good number in there now  
I don't have to do anything today the employer says  
I don't have to work today it is a holiday  
I can still keep my job it's a holiday  
We are allowed not to work today  
And I will still get money  
So if I need food I can buy it  
At the grocery store  
They never run out of food

Because farmers continually grow it  
Not around here I'm not sure where  
It doesn't matter just so long as they have it in the store  
And I have the money to buy it  
Same thing with the water and the heat and the shelter  
I don't know how it is generated or where it comes from  
Someone else worries about that I don't have to  
Worry about it someone else is paid to provide  
That so I can use it I don't have to worry about getting it myself  
I don't know how to make water heat light shelter  
But I don't have to know how I can use what somebody else makes  
I can buy it or rent it I just need money and I can  
None of it is mine but I can use it if I pay if I have money  
If I work I can have money for water heat and shelter  
Even if I didn't have money I could ask for assistance  
I could go somewhere where they are allowed to have, to use, to  
provide  
Shelter heat and water and light and I could stay there  
The government makes sure that these things are provided for me  
But there's a lot of demand a lot of need for these things  
They are not given equally the more money you have  
The more you can sell your labor for the easier it is to get  
Light food water heat shelter  
The farmer that grows the food bought  
The land he grows it on from someone  
Who bought it from someone else land can be bought  
And sold and you don't have to grow food  
On it nobody forces you to grow food if you don't want to

You can do other things with the land you own besides grow food

If you go back in history you find this land is bought and sold many times

Until you get to the time when it belonged to the Indians

They didn't have much choice it was stolen from them

These days they sell the land they were allowed to have for more money

Because now you need money to live its very hard to just hunt

And fish and provide everything for yourself and your family

The Indians need money too but I don't have to worry about this

I just need money to buy the food in the grocery store because everybody needs

food

Somebody will always grow it and sell it to somebody else who can sell it to me

But that isn't necessarily so

There is a chain of buying and selling

If that chain is disrupted the whole thing malfunctions

The farmer may grow just for subsistence

That's why we need land

The only thing we can do to guarantee our lives

Is to grow enough food for ourselves

But that's no guarantee

Weather is unpredictable