

The Man on the Street

by Don Prather

Please don't just give him a friendly wave or hello
 It helps but it is a bit like treating him like a nave
 Think of his needs and treat him like a brother
 With love
 Put your arm around his shoulder
 Open the cafe door and your wallet
 You know you can afford to buy him a warm meal, so you do
 It's hot coffee and his choice of food
 He will see love in your eyes,
 And you will be blessed with the look of gratitude in his.

New Year

by Michelle Grant

The new year's purpose is to mark the passage of time.
 The divides and symbols divinely indicating
 Inviting yet unindicating
 What I sought
 Last year
 Struck down
 Like a thunderbolt in the static
 Cloud capsule
 Encapsulating conundrum

Downtown People

by James Marsh, Jr.

Downtown People always in a rush,
 There's the homeless, jobless, and all people like us.
 Downtown People like you and I trying to do the right thing as the days go by.
 Downtown People every day is tuff,
 Trying to eat, get a job, get housing, and a home is ruff,
 Downtown people different race and different colors,
 Stealing and cheating and beating one another.
 Downtown People some don't care and don't give a damn,
 Others are good and helpful
 Because we're all in this jam.
 Downtown People!!!

The Business

by Kenneth Nickell

Were I to have made it into "the business"
 as they call it in Hollywood, I might have liked
 to create several stories for the silver screen.
 Some could be light comedies, some dark
 and brooding. Romance buried in layers of
 subversive artistry.
 Tragedies and adventures are likely my
 favorites.
 All the while in the end of my stories, made
 for the screen, the hero never wins.

I AM NOT A POET

15 *OF* *Street Roots Poetry & Art*
YEARS

All Along
 Joanna Nordness

Infinite possibilities. Only one future.
 Unbounded abilities. Healing a suture.
 Expansion of chaos. Ascent into anarchy.
 Chance is a coin toss. Caste, a hierarchy.
 Fate is a path. Fortune, an illusion.
 Destiny is math. Only one conclusion.
 Capital is a myth. Renounce your belief.
 It will cease to exist. Burn a dollar like a leaf.
 To maximize utility. You can't eat money.
 It's their facility. It's their milk and honey.
 This product we don't need. It's a fiction of power.
 It's a falsehood of greed. It's a toxic shower.
 We need to wash the Earth clean. Remove the seed of fear.
 Begin to trust the unseen. And all will come clear.
 I'm not sure how I know. So I could be wrong.
 But there's got to be a better way
 Than the one we've been taking all along.



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