

**Gift**

By Deb Ann Debozy

If someone handed you a box  
and told you it is true  
that the box holds the love of the ages,  
and has been packaged just for you,  
would you embrace it with all of your being  
and marvel at its beauty and grace,  
or would you turn your heart away,  
never allowing it into your space?  
This treasure, handcrafted by a higher force,  
has finally found its way to your side,  
and waits in anticipation for you to  
unwrap it, and be awed by the beauty inside.  
It desires only to add to your life and your stature as a man;  
to be a comfort to you in times of distress, and  
a dynamic source of energy when you need a helping hand.  
If you decide to partake of this rare, priceless jewel,  
and invite into your space the wonder intended for you,  
you may see that the intention of the giver of the gift  
is for you to know joy here on this Earth known only by a few.

**Esteban**

by Ron Burden

Esteban  
Your poor junkie soul  
Has stolen the light of your eyes  
Goodnight

You roll the dice  
When you pump your veins  
Full of vice  
Goodbye

A prince in a sun garden of tears  
Lost in the map  
Wrong turn on a one-way  
Never coming back

**Brain Child**

by Ron Sanford

In my lifetime they put a man on the moon  
It happened when I was barely two  
Has progress spelled our doom? Is the end really soon?  
As oil whores and holy wars decry the daily news  
C'mon now! Are we the victims of our success?

Cell phones clog the loam which we planted too soon  
Zillions are spent on weapons  
To keep up with the Russians? That's a lame excuse  
Since veterans and seniors have been left in the cold  
Are we not funding the programs which do most good

Fiscal responsibility gone awry  
Mostly red, some are blue misspending funds  
Oh the irony as we deal with the Chinese  
Charity at home and charity away  
White-washed walls can't hear the cries of the poor  
We need revival! We need revival!  
We pray that one day all plants will bear fruit  
They must be nurtured and given light, air, and soil

To provide for the general welfare  
In A.D. 2017, can't you see? Much more needs to be done.

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