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Voting for Change

*Poetry Parliament
Sunday, 7/2/16*

see Janet
Kuypers
on stage
and on TV
with the Bahá'í Center!

Voting
for Change

Janet Kuypers

<http://www.janetkuypers.com>

Saturday 7/2/16

see Janet
Kuypers
on stage
and on TV
at the Bahá'í Center!

7/2/16! See Janet Kuypers live
at the Bahá'í Center with other
acts, & shows starts at 6pm!

True Happiness in the New Millennium (2016 EDIT)

Janet Kuypers

written 2/98, edited 6/23/16 & 6/24/16

“The only true happiness this way lies”

- Matt Johnson

I'm here to usher in a whole new millennium
I'm the new savior
the savior of science, the savior of survival
survival of the fittest, survival of the best
and I'm here to tell you we're starting anew
so fasten your seat belts
place your seat trays in their upright and locked position
for it's a bumpy ride, and I'll tell you why

I'm here to usher in a whole new millennium
the millennium of reason and logic and strength
you need a leader and I'm stepping up to the plate
you keep asking for a big brother and I'm here to set you straight
you want someone to wipe your noses for you
well, pick up the tissue and do it yourself
because when you give up your rights, you take away mine
and we're not having any of that

I'm here to usher in a whole new millennium
they say that Eve ate from the tree from knowledge
but you know, she shouldn't have stopped just there
because you know it's now time to take it all back
and I'm here to tell you how it's gonna be done



stop asking for things and start working for things
you're looking for peace in all the wrong places
you're asking your leaders to save you from yourself
but your leaders are losers and they're worse off than you

it's time to make choices and it's time to lay claim
to everything we've been blindly giving away
because I'm here to usher in a whole new millennium
take charge of yourself, and I'll take charge of me
I'm my leader, not yours, so wipe your own noses

take it in to your hands, people, mold your own tools
this is the new millennium, and this is your chance
because no one should be showing us how to fail
people mastered that feat a millennia ago

I'm here to usher in a whole new millennium
And I'm waiting for you to usher in yours
Because the only true happiness this way lies



Orders

Janet Kuypers

6/7/16

My uncle was a pilot,
and I know he served in the military,
but I don't know him well enough.
So I only search for the stories
of the pilot with a plane of Plutonium,
dropping the fat boy over Nagasaki.

Because once you're told what to do
thinking can exit the equastion,
since everyone falls back on,
"I was only following orders."
Because, who needs to question morals
when you have blind obedience.

*

My Netherlands proclaimed neutrality
at the start of World War Two.
Germany invaded anyway,
and only one day later
Dutch forces surrendered.
Germany then deported the Jews —

but not without the help
of the Dutch police. You know, the Dutch
had one of the highest levels
of collaboration with Nazi Germany.
Because if you can't beat them,
join them. And just follow orders.

But still, I think of my ancestors,
Petronella, Johanna, Heusden natives
helping the resistance.
They were killed for saving lives.
That's what you get for having beliefs;
for not following orders.

*

And yeah, when I was raised
I did what I was told, I didn't get
in trouble, I was a good little girl.
And what did it get me, a life
of doing what I was told to do.
Until I was left with one war, one voice.

But that one voice was only my *own*,
and I no longer had any orders —
just a deafening silence in my effort
to pick up the pieces, so I could have
my *own* justice, on my *own* terms,
in my *own* time. And still I fight —

You try to do things on your own,
but the political pundits say one thing
and the talking heads say another.
But you've gained the brains
and after all this time
you should know by now

that *you're* making the choices now.
You don't have to follow orders any more.

The State of the Nation (2016 EDIT)

Janet Kuypers

written in the summer of 1995, with 2016 additions

my phone rang earlier today
and I picked it up and said “hello”
and a man on the other end said,
Is this Janet Kuypers?
and I said, “Yes, it is, may I ask
who is calling?”
and he said, Yeah, hi, this is
George Washington, and I’m sitting here
with Jefferson and a couple
other guys here and we wanted to
tell you a few things. And I said
“Why me?” And he said Excuse me,
I believe I said I was the one
that wanted to do the talking.
God, that’s the problem with
Americans nowadays. They’re so
rude. And I said, “You know,
you really didn’t have to be
so terse like that,” and he said,
Oh, I’m sorry, it’s just I’ve been
dead so long, I lose all control
of my manners. Well, anyway, we just
wanted to tell you some stuff. Now,
you know that we really didn’t have
much of an idea of what we were
doing when we were starting up
this country here, we didn’t have
much experience in creating
bodies of power, so I could understand
how our Constitution could be
misconstrued

and then he put in a dramatic pause
and said,
but when we said people had
a right to bear arms
we meant to protect themselves
from a government gone wrong
and not so you could kill
a sixteen year old girl
at an A.T.M. at six P.M.
for twenty dollars cash
and when we said freedom of
religion we included the separation
of church and state because freedom
of religion could also mean freedom
from religion
and when we said freedom of speech
we had no idea you'd be
burning a flag
or painting pictures of Christ
doused in urine
or photographing people with
whips up their respective anatomies
but I guess we've got to
grin and bear it
because if we ban that
the next thing they'll ban is books
and we can't have that
and I said, "But there are schools
that have books banned, George."
And he said Oh.



Everything was Alive and Dying (2016 POLITICAL EDIT)

Janet Kuypers

written 1995, edited 6/23/16 & 6/24/26

I know I don't do much,
I don't do enough
but I'll take what I can get
when I have these bad dreams
of our country going down the tubes
and all I can dream about
is the reality of my hands tied behind my back
and there's nothing I can do

and after every night
I wake up in a sweat

*

so tell me, Jeb exclamation point Bush
so tell me, Ted Cuban Canadian Cruz
so tell me, Entertainer In Chief Donald Trump
so tell me, crooked Hillary Clinton
so tell me, Barack Hussein Obama
if you lived through my dreams,
if you saw things the way I do —
would you be in a sweat, too?

You know my motives aren't selfless
I know that these things are worthwhile in my life:
I'd like to find a cure
to these man-made diseases
before I die of them

I mean, I'm not just a vegetarian
because I think it's wrong to kill an animal
unless I have to
I also know the excess protein
pulls the calcium away from my bones
and gives me osteoporosis
and the excess fat gives me heart attacks
and I also know that we could be feeding
seventeen times more people
with the same resources used for meat production

You know, I know you're looking at me
and calling me an extremist
but I'm sitting here, looking around me
looking at the destruction caused by family values
and thinking the right, moral, non-violent decisions
are also those extreme ones

*

everything is linked here
we destroy our animals
we destroy our plants
we destroy our earth
we're even destroying our air
we wreak havoc on the soil, on the atmosphere
we dump our wastes into our lakes
we pump aerosol cans and exhaust pipes

and you tell me I'm extreme



and I'm beginning to think
that we just keep doing it
because we don't know how to stop
and deep inside we feel the pain of
all that we've killed
and we try to control it by
popping a chemical-filled pain-killer

we live through the guilt
by taking caffeine, nicotine, morphine
and we keep ourselves thin with saccharin
and we keep ourselves sane with our alcohol poisoning
we do anything to ourselves
to make us think we have the power...

in the wild
you have no power over anyone else

now that we're civilized
we create our own wild

maybe when we have all this power
the only choice we have
is to destroy ourselves

and so we do



a Great American (2016 EDIT)

Janet Kuypers

started 3/16/05, edited 8/24/05 & 8/26/05, edited for 7/2/16 show 6/23/16 and 6/24/16

When listening to Sean Hannity,
the talking head,
the Republican pundit,
I hear him say to all veterans,
“you’re a great American.”
Then other people
would say that *Sean* is a great American.

And it becomes like a contest sometimes,
where everyone who supports
Sean Hannity
is calling each other a great American.

Yeah, Sean Hannity thanks veterans
because they fought in a war
and protected our country,
but he also calls anyone a great American
only because they agree with him.

You can elevate anyone to that tall pedestal,
idolize them, call them a great American,
as long as they support the kakistocracy...

Hey, we’re Americans,
we’ve proclaimed ourselves to be the best...
We don’t idolize anyone
except ourselves —
so maybe it’s time we all start thinking
the Sean Hannity way
and proclaim ourselves all
to be great Americans again.



7/2/16! Live Saturday July 2nd,
See Janet Kuypers with many
poetry features, starting @6pm

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