

**“BLACK HEART”, “WHITE LIES”**

Deep within our being, polluting language,  
Lurk loaded words that make me wonder.  
Words like “black heart”, in casual usage,  
That no one even questions, let alone ponder.

Well, ponder have I done, and find to my dismay,  
Without much afuss, even blacks go along!  
This corruption of language can’t be wished away,  
But I hope these lines help banish, before too long.

“Darkest secrets”, “Dark ages”, “Black Sunday”,  
Are terms that drip gloom, worthy only of scorn;  
Why color of any shade should have any sway?  
Why indeed, such terms languages let adorn?

White color is favored where goodness abounds,  
Like snow-white clothing, preferred for weddings.  
Black attire is deemed right for funeral parlor rounds,  
And for Halloween costumes or to spell bad tidings.

Fair-skinned, blonde-haired and with eyes of blue,  
A certain bias Jesus’ image usually shouts.  
Alas, as the symbol of goodness and virtue,  
It is European values this Palestinian Jew touts!

White swans are not favored over black swans,  
Black horses don’t suffer discrimination from people.  
Gems with deepest hues still fetch favor with humans;  
The flus of colors women don is yet another example.

It’s time languages eschew labels that hurt, fester.  
Secrets could as well be “dirty”, “deep” or “foul”.  
Bad days may be “gloomy”, “sad” or “sinister”.  
And an “Age” could be dubbed, “devoid of soul”.

White belts in martial arts, as emptiness' sign,  
And black as the one color students yearn to don,  
“In the red” for losses and “in the black” for gains,  
These remain exceptions, and they I can condone.

“White lie” in common use is oh! so amusing,  
As lying is no virtue, this is another exception.  
“Innocent” or “harmless” lies is apt, less confusing;  
Commonsense dictates such neutral assertion.

The context of black and brown has a racial tinge;  
It makes sense to not use them in ways that singe.