

University of Massachusetts Amherst

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Cats and Dogs and Humans, Poem 11/23/2015

Charles Kay Smith



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Cats and Dogs and Humans

Dogs are smart enough
to know what we want them to do,
and dumb enough to do it.

Cats are cannier by far.
They know what we want,
yet, they heed us not.

Humans are smarter than dogs,
but more neotenic and cooperative.
We do as our masters bid us.

Oligarchs want us to fight
colonial wars and compete
for the scraps they are willing to throw us.

Some ex colonials have been so
plundered and pillaged over the years,
that a brutal few have turned to terror.

Shall we blame all Muslims and migrants?
We should know capitalism
pits humans against one another.

A scarcity system is the harbinger of war.
We no longer have to put-up with that,
but we will, because we're not cats

When the eight richest men in the world
own more than the bottom half
of the whole world's population,

the millennia of scarcity
have now finally ended.
All could thrive and grow richer.

Thanks to the exponential gains
of science and technology,
so funded by government taxes,

that all have invested in science
and deserve remuneration
from an ever increasing wealth.

**Picketty and other economists
are telling us where that wealth
is accumulating, and where it's not.**

**Oligarchs are humans, too,
but sit on too much money and power.
It makes them crave even more,**

**And we crave to trust big Pharma,
We'll forgive Volkswagon.
Big energy has us all in thrall.**

**We'd better invent a new system,
for when robots are ready,
the few will not need the many!**

**Robots can replace workers and soldiers
and professionals, too;
There'll be little work for us to do.**

**We might instead plan
a guaranteed income,
so that all humans could pursue their dreams.**

**Other human rights could follow:
the right to the best education,
with health and medical care.**

**Any system of shared wealth
will be politically resisted.
It's not what the 1% want.**

**They want us to continue to play
the capitalist game in which most
are kept poor and exploited.**

**And whatever oligarchs want, we'll obey,
accept poverty, terror and war,
rather than change the scarcity game.**

Woof! Woof!