

HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, HENRY

***POETRY IS NOT DEAD!***

written by James P. Lukens, aka "The Buckeye Poet", Newark, Ohio

It lives in hibernation  
or at best  
in suspended animation.

*Poetry lives!* In resplendent  
evolution  
it breathes.

Poets\* may be prideful,  
or die of bloated  
self-indulgence, though,  
the novice reader,

who leers with condescension,  
Yea, with shallow understanding  
would choose the poet's demise

*Poetry is not dead!*  
It's simply catching  
another breath  
of creative syncopation  
as it needs re-read, re-said for  
deeper contemplation,  
whose friendly voice beckons

readers from the wilderness  
language of another age,  
epoch, era, another place in time  
to find assurance in the Psalms of  
David, Homer's Odyssey, Shakespeare's  
Lear or Lucretious' Universe

*Poetry is not dead! God forbid!*  
virtuous verse  
transcends mortuaries of words



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*Responding to Longfellow* is a partnership of the Maine Historical Society; Maine's Poet Laureate; and the Stonecoast MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine. For more information, please visit

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(the libraries of printed sayings  
whose dusty scrolls of parchment  
sag in woeful repose)

As proud poets\* imbibe the bitter  
Rule unless  
Grace is served to conquer  
Bitter grapes of wrath

from now to eternity  
the cross over point  
from death to life

Whence wise Solomon  
shares unspeakable words  
in a kinder, gentler tone

so profound that weaker souls  
suffer to stutter, shudder  
chilled to the bone

another tortured hour  
as Job endured fiendish  
ridicule from friend and foe

as phonic sounds of  
mourning parade  
across the stage of life

'til Gabriel shouts Hallelujah!  
the trump's last shrill blast  
heard above the ocean's roar,  
the thundering , frightful storms,  
or fiery bombs of war:

*"Yea for Longfellow!"*

"Poets\* may die, but their poetry lives on!"



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