

A Parable of Spiders and of Flies

There was a time,
so long ago that no one can remember now,
when spiders lived on webs
and did not ask for much
except to suck the juices
out of flies and such--
until one day the economic powers of the world
decided they would privatize the flies
and granted rights to one great megalopoly.

Soon all the flies were herded
into giant factories where fly production
could proceed in proper massive quantities.
But now if spiders still desired flies to eat,
they had to buy them in the marketplace,
and needing therefore some hard currency, a race
began: to offer silk-producing labor
to the highest bidder. However, with so many
spiders having nothing else to sell
the price of silk—and with it spider labor—fell.

So that is why, today, we can see spiders,
by the thousands, reduced to begging
for an insect morsel on the street, (and also how
the current plague of spider prostitution first appeared.)
Meanwhile the grand philosophers ensconced
in universities proclaimed another victory
for a world, constructed just precisely as it ought to be—
since fly-producing stock has fared so well;
and children came to understand instinctively,
discussing with their friends in every school and mall
the reason spiders act the way they do today:
It's only spider nature, after all.

Steve Bloom
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