

Circus days and nights Poems – Robert Lax

Utdrag från sidorna 82-86:

*I have often thought how much like
a circus the world is, and how
the more like a circus it becomes,
the better.*

These are some of the reasons:

*More than almost anything in the
world, the circus is an end in itself.
(That used to be said of all heart, but
too often literature
painting & music, even ballet turn
into means & servants of some other
end)*

*No one jumps through a
hoop on horseback to prove a point
(except incidentally, the point that
anything that is done proves: i.e.,
that it can be)*

*So if the world ever came to its
final rejoicing what would it
prove (what better thing could it
try to prove) except
that it*

*can
be.*

*That which we have believed in,
said prayers
and
made sacrifices in the hope of,
is.*

*The traveling circus
(and what's that I mean)
in its nature is always in
motion, even when it seems
to be standing still. This is
literally true. Circuses in
their season are always
traveling from town to town.*

*When the circus is in one
town, advance agents
are moving about the next
working routes, checking
ads, making reservations
in hotels, and "Put it
up & tear it down" is the*

*constant chant of the
circus.*

*It spends
all morning
building up tents
and bleachers,
rings,
trapezes,
and
all evening
tearing it down
(silently)
unobtrusively
(an unoccupied
clown folds chairs)
folding chairs,
loosening ropes,
sending the cookhouse
out through the night.*

*Like civilizations
and
everything
that grows,
it holds
in
perfection
but a little moment*

*The world too is always in motion.
Nothing abides,
all changes.
A bright falbala
turns to the light
and so seen no more
(for this poor world presenteth
naught but shows
whereon the stars in
secret influence comment)*

*Everyone who travels with a
circus is of use to the circus.
Nobody is just along for the ride.*

*There is a hierarchy in the
show; not of souls but of skills
and talents, it is a
natural kind of hierarchy
allowing free movement up
and down, which gives*

*legitimate hope to
aspiration but
not just cause for
resentment.*

*In most circuses the administrators
(owners) and star performers make
up two kind of nearly sovereign
aristocracy, but the line is seldom
drawn tight between them.
Performers often become entrepreneurs.*

*I said it is a hierarchy
of talents. What (precisely)
does the circus aristocracy have
a talent for? A talent
precisely for life in the circus
(which, by analogy, means life
in the world)*

*The circus is a show;
the aristocrats are showmen.
The circus is an organization (almost
an organism). The aristocrats
(entrepreneurs) are good at organizing
at keeping it organically functioning.*

*The circus is in motion, it requires
(calm) nerves, easy breathing, balance,
an ability to change from place to
place without inner disturbances.
Circus aristocrats, the performers
are well fitted to this kind of
motion, to traveling through
the world from day to day eating
& sleeping in a new town each day.
But further,
motion precisely is their business;
graceful,
(physical) motion through space,
the balance
and
coordination of
physical movement
is the quality,
the talent,
which distinguishes these people.
It is a quality
(most) useful
and*

*highly valued
in the life of the circus.
Useful and highly valued
(though too often in a state of atrophy)
throughout the world.
It is no wonder
that wherever they go
these graceful movers
are asked to give a show.*