

Tiny yet Powerful

Tat-tat-tat-tat-tat-tat-tat!
Tat-tat-tat-tat-tat-tat-tat!
A woodpecker, at a short distance,
Was busy at work searching for
Insects for its nourishment.
The tapping was quite tiny in the air,
Yet so distinctive,
It could not be ignored.

Presently, very boldly,
A large gaggle of boisterous
Canada geese swooped across the
Sky, loud honking almost drowning
Out the woodpecker's tat-tap.
Yet after all the loud fussing above,
The geese flying off,
Woodpecker's tap remained.

Three days in a row this did
Happen, making me wonder
If this natural phenomenon
Held a gentle message for me.
The woodpeckers and the geese
Are both creations of God; so are we.
Geese flew past, landed
Somewhere all together.

Though their loud, raucous honking
Sounded like irritated
Anger, it was a temporary
Elation of their unity,
In flight, dominating the
Scene, temporarily, before landing
Elsewhere to graze in
Union, no longer loud.

What had seemed dangerous, as
If through broken windows they'd attack me,
Faded away, leaving just the
Purposeful tapping of the
Woodpecker harvesting its nourishment,
Its tapping tempo's
Repetition calming.

Living through an actual
Attack on our Capitol,
Through actual broken windows, had
Put me on edge. Unsettling.
Fear for the future of our
Country. Hope no one would gloss over it.
Deeply troubled by
Loud, angry rioters.

Maybe, maybe, the raucous,
Loud shouting of the angry
Protesters that led to violence
In our Capitol will prove to
Be temporary, even
Though anger, once stirred up, is difficult
To quell. Oh how can
We de-flame such anger?

Hoping and praying for an
End to the violence, and
A backing-down of supporters of
Tearing our country apart, has
Drained much of my energy,
So that what, previously, had seemed just
Noisy, began to
Feel, somehow, ominous.

And then there it was, three days
Repeated: Steady tapping
In search of food, drowned out by angry,
Loud honking that faded away,
Followed by the continued
Purposeful tapping. Three days in a row.
No more. Three times. It
Summoned my attention.

And how natural it felt
That a lesson should come from
Nature itself. Though un-parallel
Situations, one with, and one
Without, actual danger,
The steadiness of the woodpecker's work
Seemed to indicate
The value of good works.

Good, steady work. Work done with
Positive purpose, with love.
Work that builds up, rather than destroys.
Life-affirming work. Work that spreads
Health and harmony. We are
All God's creations. We must do our best
To put aside anger
And work together.

Caring, life-affirming acts
Might seem tiny in the scheme
Of things, yet they have the power to
Summon healing amidst current
Dangerous divisions in
Our country, arcing us toward social
Justice, toward a
Loving community.

May God guide us.

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January 2021