

COVID 19

When Covid struck a robin sang, not out of disrespect
But 'cause that's what a robin does, he doesn't interject
When human life gets complex and chaos reigns below
He stays atop the tree and sings; he just doesn't need to know.

The ramifying crises - political, economic and health
Impacting overwhelmingly on education, employment and wealth.
Prompting diverse policies from Bolsonaro, Zi Jin and Trump
Leading their flocks to catastrophe
To hospital, the Morgue or dump.

'We'll follow the science' was the maxim here, but does the science know?
And whose science do we follow anyway, prompting 'do they really know'?
The virologist, epidemiologist, the microbiologists all had to have their say
With their assumptions, deductions and suppositions pulling each and every way
But with their 'evidence-based probabilistic conclusions' confusing those making the decision
Leaving members of the public bewildered and to treat those in power with derision.

The outcome's not clear, 'cept that costs will be high,
Social, financial and emotional
But benefits too, as after a war,
Structural, organisational, promotional.

Meanwhile the robin sings, enduring, consistent, joyful
His life has challenges, but constrained, deliberately avoiding fearful.
And does some deep genetic origin speak to this avian mind?
That to mess with things not understood is foolish for mankind.

N E Young