

Will America Be?

By Zoe Kaltenbach

*Doomsday, they say,
The end is near.*
Billboards proclaim apocalypse.
The threats mount and mount
The earth slowly heating
Wars waged with the power of a thousand suns
The people enraged
Everything comes crashing down

Sometimes I believe
We are destined to fall;
Sometimes I wish
We would fall faster.

I fear the future
Of what we let America become.
What will happen to us?

Will America be kind?
Or will we push away our loved ones,
Even our own children?
Will the nature of our love
Mark us as a target for hate?

Will America be rational?
Will the courts see the crime
Or be blinded by black and white?
Must we still take to the streets
Just to see justice served?

Will America be safe?
Balancing science and liberty
Can we conquer COVID
Putting aside petty problems
To protect us all?

Will America be educated?
Facts prevailing over fiery Facebook rants
Schools a place of safety, not slaughter,

Will my classmates shoot firearms or free throws?
Will we have the pride of roosters
The pride preceding the fall
Full of fight and feathers
Or the pride of lions?
Strong together, united as we should be
Leading the world by example

Will America be united
As our name commands?
Will we put aside partisan troubles
Claim our common ground at last
Or divide along invisible battle lines?

How will this tangled mess unravel into a close-knit country?
How can we mend the rifts between us?

The future lies with the youth
Strong in voice and spirit,
We could be the ones
To turn the world upside down.