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## Gary Beck

### Dabblers

A Presidential phenomenon  
that only a year at the job  
ages the incumbent noticeably,  
except for the current occupant  
not affected like others,  
because of lack of involvement,  
not knowing responsibilities,  
what he should do for the nation,  
a slightly bloated plutocrat

who represents the worst  
of the failures of democracy.

## Blind to Emergencies

Only forty or fifty years ago  
we had regular seasons.  
Spring would turn warm  
when it was supposed to.  
The other seasons  
changed as expected  
as we went through activities  
predictably scheduled.  
Then climate change began,  
weather pattern unstable,  
with uncertain conditions,  
too little snow,  
not enough hot days,  
fierce storms, wild fires,  
while the leaders of the land  
refused to take action  
to save the planet.

## Cure Needed

Our land of insane violence  
is perilously diseased  
with the need to hurt others,  
spreading more and more brutally,  
warped minds inventing new ways  
to inflict lurid suffering,  
while our confused society  
accepts harmful afflictions,  
disturbingly, as if normal,  
many of us oblivious  
to the dangers of contagion.

## Gary Beck

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Gary has spent most of his adult life as a theater director and worked as an art dealer when he couldn't earn a living in the theater. He has also been a tennis pro, a ditch digger and a salvage diver. His original plays and translations of Moliere, Aristophanes and Sophocles have been produced Off Broadway. His poetry, fiction and essays have appeared in hundreds of literary magazines and his published books include 34 poetry collections, 14 novels, 3 short story collections, 1 collection of essays and 7 books of plays. Gary lives in New York City.

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