

The Lottery Dream

I was raised in a family that trusted in God,
And taught to behave by the touch of the rod,
And learned of His love and believed what I heard,
And I tried to do right like I read in the Word.

Despite my mistakes, I am thankful to say,
I was walking by faith in the narrow old way;
'Til my eye chanced to fall on at scrap by a shrub,
And I recognized it was a lottery stub.

Now I knew from a sign at the gasoline pump
That the stakes in our state were exceedingly plump,
And the lust in my heart made it pitter and pound
As I furtively pocketed what I had found.

When the ten o'clock news was about to begin
I turned on the tube to see if I'd win;
My weary head bobbed but I could still see,
My number popped up and the prize was for me.

I went down to claim all that cash the next day,
And quickly found out that it didn't work that way:
Uncle Sam and the State skimmed the top off the wax,
And I only got what was left after tax.

Right then I perceived what I'd known all along;
Why gambling's legal although it is wrong.
The state will ignore it's addiction and pain
As long as it shares in the ill-gotten gain.

I thought of the kids left alone in the street
'Cause Mom has to work for something to eat;
While Dad spends their money on trying to win,
And loses it over and over again.

And what about those who don't know their Dad
'Cause he is in prison for being so bad;
Like kiting a check, or some other plot
He thought he could cover by winning the pot.

I saw how folks suffered for what I had won
Because of the harm that addiction had done,
And realized the money I claimed as my own
Belonged to those families and victims alone.

I put all those bundles of bills in a sack,
And took to the streets to give it all back.
They took what I offered, and then to my shame,
They put it all back in the lottery game.

The State claimed the lotto would help fund the schools,
So I took the rest to those erudite fools;
And threw it to them like Judas's purse,
And felt I'd delivered myself from a curse.

And just as I managed to make myself right,
I jerked wide awake, and there in my sight
The TV was touting which ticket was hot,
But I never checked if I had it or not.

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