Carlisa George

<u>Skills Equal Money</u>

Breathtaking art, I'll take it, but for 200 dollars at most
My wife will polish it with peacock's feathers when she hosts
Picasso would rue the day you were born my dear
Why? Skill equals money didn't you hear?

Forgive me truly, I did not mean to scoff
Only that your words show sheltered sense
Your silver hairs tell me stories I can only dream of
Yet your hands say that you simply snap for 10 cents

Soup tastes better from silver spoons child
Nourished by the skills of generations compiled
Artisans who gathered the scraps of serfs
Now onlookers marvel at my glorious girth

I've seen my mother sew seventy shirts in a night
Still her calloused fingers never touched a 100-dollar note
Answer me this, sir, if you are right
Why don't hairdressers and carpenters own yachts and boats?
I look at your words like a broken clock
Only right when school bells ring
Sometimes Mr. Wolf draws a line with chalk
Only crossed when tassels are switched in spring

Surely your juvenescence has made you ignorant to financial affairs
Unaware of the wide margin of equity given not just to millionaires
So, I shall grant you grace for your error was small
You did not know being educated does not make you rich at all

Then old man can we both at least concede
That money is made by the skills not spoken of openly
By women with honeyed lips and the devil's greed
By men with pockets of secrets whose fingers are treacly

Young girl the skills that money favours are determined by the spin of a wheel
Despite how a single person may feel
Maybe there's a magnet in the skills which are taught
Or a white-collar on the skills which are sought

Then skill equals money is truly a twisted phrase
For skill equals education, and education requires money

Perhaps we've been going through a maze
And money actually equals skill, wouldn't that be funny

Young lady how much is this painting worth to you
How much do you think your skill is due?

It doesn't matter if it's priceless to me
It's 200 dollars at most if I remember correctly