

# The End of Civilization as We Know It

*by* Jerry Ratch

## ***The End of Civilization as We Know It***

Question is, how many carpets did you see flying in close formation?

Question is, which hand would you use

If you were asked to choke yourself for the sake of civilization?

The real question is, if you could only use one hand

Would you still make an attempt to go through with it?

To be or not to be

That isn't even the question anymore

And about your soul or your ghost — listen to me, carefully —

If it has too long a neck

The urge to have a hand ringing it

Would be irresistible

All we really know is that one day the fate of all frogs

Hung on two frogs

And the last remaining mosquito came in from the cold

For one last look at blood

And found that it was just too delicious to resist

All we really know is that the underside of the world

Really is kind of flat, and now the planet thumps in the night

As it goes round and round

Because that's what happens when you

Scrape the hell off the bottom of the world

So, the real question is

If you could only use one hand  
Would it be okay  
As long as you can still  
Give someone the finger?

