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Generation Gape

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Generation Gape



BY

RICHARD D. KAHOE

Heads incline together over Cokes
in an Oklahoma diner booth,
two generations of reservation stock,
drawn from the same pure blood
but infused with different fire.

Mother's melancholy jowls despond;
her achromatic shift cloaks a shapeless form;
vacant eyes dream pathetically
of shattered culture steeped
in the ebb and flow of seasons,
in windstorm, rain and snow,
in eagle, wolf and buffalo,
in hides, teepee poles and pemmican,
in dances, raids and peace pipes.

Daughter sports the latest teenage chic,
blouse billowing with bright red blossoms
over coulottes in cherry red.
Heightened cheekbones blush a natural rose,
lips almost asmile in repose,
cascading jet brushed to a sheen.
She'll go to a Christian college
and marry the farm boy from the next county
who wants to be a doctor.
She'll welcome sons home from America's wars,
bearing medals stamped for valor,
and marry off her daughters
to a teacher and a preacher.

But can the summit of her Great American Dream
surpass the one that's faded
from her mother's eyes? ■