

## Status report 2022

here on the surface  
not much has changed

wisdom hides behind a thin, toothless guise  
look between the cracks, so say the wise

intimacy got lost looking for *likes* online  
virtually unaware of *friends* it wouldn't find

vanity and poverty wander the same unfriendly streets  
fear befriended ignorance in order to keep the peace

packaged politicians still sound-bite new deals  
pompous promises packed with lofty ideals

gods and heroes left the building and now turn tricks  
on the big screen, Prime, HBO and Netflix

here on the surface  
sugar-coated and bloated

where the news rarely speaks and  
entertainment barely asks us to breathe

where suicide and genocide are alive and well  
and the promise of heaven still keeps us in hell

here on the surface  
the slimy grimy surface

where the smog keeps getting thicker  
making the world a little sicker

where still we bicker and fight  
over who and what is right

where the sick and hungry get forgotten  
and the fat keep getting fed

where the last four-leaf clover  
got run over and left for dead.

*neil miller © 2022*