

Are We There Yet?

'Don't' make me come back there...!'

You've heard those words
You've probably spoken them

I have said *these* words
riding along in the Chrysler Town and
Country
Dad his cigarette hanging from the corner
of his mouth
*"I'll pull this damn car over right now!
Is that what you want? Well? ?
I asked you a question! Answer me!"*

Are we there yet?

This was our mantra over and over
a cadence embossed in the sticky
vinyl suicide jumper seats
my brother and I
jamming our fingers
through the weather stripping
permanently damaging the car
like millions of other children who'd
force their fingers through the back window
hanging limply as if dad had
rolled the windows up on our fingers
purposefully to keep us in line

Are we there yet?

back to front to dad's *"don't
make me come back there!"* or
"I can turn this car around right now!"
or ...

To my own kids' hourly chime in

"I'm hungry"

This is there mantra

"I'm hungry

There's nothing to eat"

Even though here in the land of plenty
here there is always plenty of food

"No you're not!" I yell I "You have no idea
what hunger is

Hunger to you is the fact that you have not
eaten

a bag of chips or a chocolate bar
in the last 15 minutes

you haven't had your daily dose
of Snickers and Red Bull

That is not hunger -- hungry is not having
eaten

for the last 15 days

hungry is not being able to hold down a
piece of bread

because food has become a foreign entity
to your weakened stomach

hungry is where your own stomach acids
begin digesting the lining

when you cannibalize yourself from the
inside

where food has actually become
a poison our body must reject
no choose to...

hungry is not knowing where or when or how
or

if ever you will eat again

hunger is not a stomach growling from the
emptiness

it is the pain of extension the pressure
of distension

where the emptiness has been filled
with...

Are we there yet?

At the end of the 19th century
food, hunger, sustenance was the talk
of all of the sciences
how by the end of the 20th century hunger
would be eradicated
foodstuffs plentiful and cheap and
nutritious
at one time Kellogg's refused to add
sugar
to any of their products
for sustenance should be healthy
good for you
the 20th century has come and gone

We are the land of plenty
so plentiful that we are actually
eating ourselves
to death
we burn our excess foodstuffs
let the fruit rot on the vine
in the orchards
we create sport out of killing
animals - not to eat - but to play
with our food
we bury it drown it destroy it
to protect the economy
to protect our profits

all the while we stuff the equivalent of
sawdust
animal by-products covered with syrupy
sauces
into our bellies

we are the only country in the world
who forcibly and deliberately starve
ourselves
from our excess
we surgically modify our bodies
we take pills milkshakes powders
chemicals

we puke out our excess

we have recreated the aristocracy
arrogance of Ruben's world

how beautiful is that?

Once when it was fashionable
or it got your picture on the cover
these musicians got together
to teach the world about hunger
"feed the world" they sang

the world is still hungry

"feed the world"
they profited by

hundreds of years later
we are healthier than when we were
ignorant farmers in the land of plenty
How far do we have to go?
How many of us will we kill?

feed the world

Aren't we there yet?