Invitation to Walt

--Danny Schott

From Camden come, rise from the dust
fly to Brooklyn with your shaggy beard
in your old school hat see what's happened
to home and your beloved democracy

Let's grab a beer or eight at McSorley's
where 19th century dirt clings to chandeliers
of your old haunt and reminisce and plan
our trek through New York's teeming streets

Before we saunter to the Bowery or the Nuyorican or Tribes
where exclaimers and exhorters still sling verse
of hope and despair to hungry crowds who
may still believe in the power of the word.

We need your sweeping vision Walt,
to offer our children more than low expectations
of life sat in front of screens or held in gadgets
that promise expression, but offer convention.

This new century has been cruel and unusual
the ideology of greed consuming itself in a spasm
of defeat engineered by merchants of fear
and post millennial prophets of doom.

We need to recognize healthcare
and education as basic human rights
we need to restore the dignity of work,
as well as the dignity of leisure from work.

We need to get off our flabby asses
to dance as if nobody is watching, to howl
and stir shit up, to worry the rich
with a real threat of class warfare