The Great Experiment

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Abstract

The devil grinned at us: “I have just the thing To make living fun- No more worries, conflicts, great or small, No wars or poverty or death.”...
Maybe it's all summed up in this little vow one of the boys mutters to his friend: "I guess maybe all this is all right for you and me, Joe, but listen. If I ever have any kids, they better not have to go through this. No, sir, they better not, or else."

More of the fine dust filtered through the air. The wheels jolted the train on into the night.

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The devil grinned at us:
"I have just the thing
To make living fun—
No more worries, conflicts, great or small,
No wars or poverty or death."

Out of Hell the devil pulled a long siphon,
Burning with fiery red liquid:
"This will inoculate you against
The folly of living—this panacea
For pain in life."
He pierced our craniums
With a sleek, long needle—
Let the red stuff gurgle in. . .

Our white corpuscles swarmed to fight
The crimson toxic throbbing in our veins.
They gobbled the billowing fluid like hungry tigers . . .
Once again
We felt rich blood surging through us.

The devil shrieked at us—
The black earth cracked,
Swallowed him whole.