

Ours Not to Reason Why

(Tennyson quote)

By Carole Gauntlett

A toddler comes with a basket full of "Why?"
Asked in a curious tone.
He's looking for answers to solve his world
And I'll tell you he's not alone.

He comes to his parents because he feels safe
In whatever they choose to say.
He's not yet found Google so rejoice in the fun
Of guiding him on his way.

Some soon discover that the magical "Why?"
Will get them elaborate attention.
Soon all things become "Why?" (the temptation is there)
Why not give Google a mention?

A teenager comes with a backpack full of "Whys?"
That are snarly and full of disdain.
An adult asks a question or makes a remark
He asks "Why?" as though he's in pain.

If asked to perform a household chore
He demands to know "Why?" on the spot.
The standard explanation is repeated once more
While tempers are headed for "HOT."

There's the extension of course from "Why?" to "Why not?"
When he's asking something from you.
"We're saving your life, though we're not sure why
But then what else can we do?"

The elderly come with a cumbersome cart
Filled to the top with "Why?"
There's the "Why didn't I?" bag
So sadly packed with a long and lazy sigh.

There's the "Why did I?" bag that's glimpsed
With a very mischievous grin
An aftertaste of delight
In owning up to the sin.

There are two different kinds of "Why Me?" bags
That you may have packed but I'm guessing,
That your face was no grimace all full of regret

But a smile so grateful for blessings?