

# *the Efficiency poem*

by Gail Ruth – GailRuth.com

for some of us humans  
the most terrifying word on earth  
is Efficiency

Chop chop!  
Just do it!  
Snap to it now!

while other frightening words  
such as sorrow and suffering  
might form  
jewels of  
character  
and compassion  
Efficiency is heartless, quenching  
ebb and flow, void  
of creativity  
of color  
of beautiful human flaw

when the Product is the focus  
and the producer is a Means  
to an End that is  
For the Common Good  
and of course  
Fiscally Profitable  
our hearts cower and quake  
our gentleness  
goes into hiding  
and we are hostage  
and oppressed

and when Efficiency spots  
our unique gifts and creativities  
it pounces  
and demands  
that we devise  
A Plan for Production  
and what gets squeezed  
out of us are  
poor pathetic creations  
stress-induced pathologies  
and defective reasonings

ah, but the Friends of Efficiency  
are quite pleased with our sad little  
Clone Creations  
so Efficient  
so Productive  
so Marketable!  
and pat us sympathetically  
for our (needlessly)  
stress-induced  
illnesses  
and neuroticisms

but no! we might change the world  
if we guard our dreams with strong  
fences of delight  
and therein  
playfully explore  
our uncharted wonders