

the Efficiency poem

by Gail Ruth – GailRuth.com

for some of us humans
the most terrifying notion on earth
is Efficiency
Chop chop!
Just do it!
Snap to it now!

while other frightening prospects
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