

# America the Ugly

## Tom T. Hall

There was a man, came to see the USA from a foreign land  
To photograph the progress of dear old Uncle Sam  
He got off the boat in New York, went down to the Bowery  
I know what the man went to photograph and to see  
There were hopeless, hungry living dead  
Winos who sell their souls for a bottle of a cheapest red  
That's the picture that he wanted  
And that's what he got they say, America the ugly today  
He went to the Appalachians and he saw what we all  
have seen  
Where people live on bread and soup, fat back and pinto beans  
He saw the hungry children and he photographed the ragged clothes  
I guess we're gonna try to tell him that it ain't so  
There were good men standin' around with nothing to do  
Pregnant young women who didn't even have a pair of shoes  
The man got his pictures  
And what are we going to say, "America the ugly today"  
Then he went to the medicare centers and he saw the  
old people there  
It seems that the young generation just didn't want 'em in their hair  
He saw the poor man workin' it out while the mighty rich lives high  
And my friend that brings a gleam to the enemy's eyes  
There were some folks, had plenty and some had none at  
all  
The enemy knows when a heart gets hard, the country is bound to fall  
If we get heads and hearts together we won't have to hear them say  
"America the ugly today, America the ugly today"

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