

RELIGION OF CHAOS

The smack, the cry, the breath. . .
The baby fat grows thin and tall
And runs to public school to learn
The pattern they have set.

The pattern they have set:
“Our scientists have proved to us. . .”
“Our government provides for us. . .”
“Our system will progress through us. . .”
“All things are working out.”

All things are working out:
“Open your text to page one, please. . .”
“It’s simply an evolutionary process. . .”
“You’re adults now—no more silly stories. . .”
“And how can parental authority determine. . .”
“Being freed now from myths and old traditions,
We must, we will go on!”

We must, we will go on:
“Our world is changing all the time. . .”
“There are no such things as absolutes. . .”
“Man, then, is ultimately the judge. . .”
“Man’s at the center, deciding the destiny. . .”
“The state of Man’s evolutionary development. . .”
“And history evolves in the same progressive way. . .”
“So let your minds adapt. . .”

So let your minds adapt:
“Five years ago you wouldn’t dare. . .”
“But now, of course, it’s commonly. . .”
“The new Supreme Court ruling says. . .”
“So, you see, we are in a constant flux. . .”
“The evolutionary principle, then, adaptation. . .”
“We trust that progress is leading us into. . .”
“Change as the only real absolute, you see. . .”
“For now we are arriving. . .”

And now we have arrived:
“Each student will be judged by his or her. . .”
A- “am going into psychology, because I feel. . .”
B- “but believe we have much to learn from our past. . .”
C- “choice, because for me anthropology has always. . .”
D- “down with the foolish old institutions and ideas. . .”
E- “every religion the same, so to me, theology would. . .”
F- “fact is, I just want to teach liberal arts. . .”
“And so, ‘D’ was chosen to receive—”
The harvest of the age!

— David L. Hatton, 3/1972