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**John Rees Moore**

*On Loving Thy Neighbor*

Loving thy neighbor is hard to do:  
    that dirty, ignorant, stinking fellow  
Black or white, Hindu or Jew,  
    requires you to be somewhat mellow.  
But if you don't do it, who will?  
It's really a question of love or kill.

Rage is a feeling we should rarely use  
    though perhaps there is some excuse:  
When power resorts to cruel abuse  
    of innocence. But what can hate produce?  
Love is hard—even to love oneself  
May require a sick mind to regain health.

It's not natural to love your neighbor, said Freud.  
    But how about every mother and child?  
But can we compel love or avoid  
    hate? Is it enough to have mercy mild?  
"We must love one another or die," said Auden.  
But on second thought he cut it out. Too maudlin?

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