

The Terror-King

By Francis Clark-Lowes

Who's riding so fast through battle and strife?
Ah, he's our leader who's saving our life,
Protecting us all with superior arm,
He will ensure that we come to no harm.

'Dear citizen, why is your face full of fear?'
Oh leader, can't you see, the terrorist's near,
He's wearing a star on his battle fatigue?
'No, no, that's a soldier with whom we're in league.'

'Dear citizen, come and enlist with me,
We'll play jolly war games, just wait and see!
The girls are all longing to give us their flowers.
Just kill a few natives, and then they'll be ours.'

Oh leader, oh leader, did you not hear
What the terrorist whispered just now in my ear?
'Be quiet, now, dear citizen, no need to worry;
You're imagining things 'cos we're in such a hurry.'

Oh leader, I see him again but right now
He's wearing blue uniform and won't allow
Me past to the building with gun he is guarding;
He's arresting the people who started placarding.

'No, no, dear citizen, he's from the police,
He's making quite sure there's no breach of the peace;
He's there to defend us, you know it makes sense,
Stop thinking so much and getting so tense.'

Oh leader, oh leader, now he comes in a Rolls,
He wears a round hat and his eyes are but holes.
'Come worship, dear citizen, old Mammon with me,
You'll have such wealth as shall set you quite free.'

Did still you not hear the terrorist's voice?
I'm beginning to feel that I have little choice.
'Dear citizen, what better choice could exist
Than joining the rich in a profitable tryst?'

Oh leader, I see now a man with keffieh,
He carries a gun and he looks like a seer.
His words are persuasive, my eyes open wide,
Now *you* are a terrorist who must be defied.

Oh leader, new leader, let's go to your base,
Now that I know the true terrorist's face.
But wait, tell me first, can you give me some sign
That *you'll* not deceive me when with you I dine.