

The Great Gatsby

Douglas Ponton

Did Gatsby turn out "all right" in the end,
And flights of angels pluck him from his pool?
On Sunset Boulevard are the words engraved
"Let every hedonist and sociopath be saved"?

Can lack of substance be redeemed by style,
A turn of phrase to put the guest at ease?
Is good behaviour just a party dress -
The key that moves the golden door, success?

He turned out all right! He sowed his wild oats:
The miracle occurred, and they became
Apple trees where sturdy yeomen climbed
For pause amid their threshing of the grain.

He did his best " whatever that means " to be
The very pattern of the romantic lead;
If dandy Gatsby got his maker's final nod,
What can we look for at the hand of God?

Were we made, after all, to toe a line,
The Jacks and Jills, that lose the human race?
For every bright Cafiso, a thousand mediocrities;
A thousand dunces, for every Socrates?

Or are we simply here as party guests,
To look on as the heroes fall in love,
To make small talk as they parade the aisle -
Marvelling at Gatsby's enigmatic smile?