

are labelled 'narcissistic' or 'obsessed with themselves'; those who try to give help are labelled 'over-sentimental'. I see part of the task of the gay activist is to help to establish more and better gay counselling services; I also see his task as being to permit other gays to talk about their fears and paranoias.

For me, *CHE's Disabled Gays Campaign* embodies everything that I believe in as regards gay liberation. I believe that if we can achieve freedom from oppression for someone stuck in a wheelchair all her life, or someone permanently disfigured in a road accident, then we have achieved our aim, since these people are only too aware of the sexism, ageism, consumerism and so forth that oppresses us as gay people, divides us and ultimately causes us to expect nothing more than an essentially joyless existence.

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I am a cave.  
Inside  
I hide  
Peep out I may  
But here I stay  
Not joyful  
Not sad  
Not good and  
Not bad  
I get by . . . . just.

#### I MUST GET OUT!

I am a zombie  
Locked in a tomb!  
But this womb is a safe.

I could explore my cave.  
I could save this disappearing self.  
I delve in the dreary darkness, and . . . .

#### OVER THERE!

I am aware of a shine, a jewel-  
It is mine  
A rich and sparkling jewel  
In me  
That I could never see before.

My cave brightens with  
The glow  
I know there is more, and . . . .  
Sure enough

Here is a jewel of hope  
In me  
I never thought I had that quality  
Before  
There is more!  
A gleam of kindness  
A glow of warmth  
A ray of affection  
All that is good.  
How could it have been  
Hidden for so long?

I leave my beautiful jewels  
And creep  
Into the deep . . . .  
All is not well  
Do I enter a passage of hell?

I bravely go ahead  
Dreading  
I don't want to see!

Here lies a part of me  
That is not good.

But why should a cave  
Have only jewels?

These stones of hate, greed and anger said:  
– Instead of wiping us out  
Leave us alone  
Our stone is part of the wall  
Without us it would fall  
Without our dullness, the jewels  
Would not seem bright at all.

We can live with the jewels in peace  
And our vices will not increase  
If you accept us as we are.

So, far from hating them  
I think I need these parts of me  
And after my discovery  
Just one part of my cave  
Remains unseen  
This passage lies far back  
Where no one has ever been.

I approach, and to my delight  
I see a light more beautiful than all  
A light surrounds the walls  
I know the light is love  
And the light of love tells me  
That this passage is not blind.  
I find at the end  
An open space  
A place where I could  
Give some love away

And more than this-  
Have the bliss  
Of bringing some inside.

**I WANT TO HIDE NO MORE!**

I see my cave  
How good  
How bad  
How happy  
How sad I can be.

I do not like it all . . . .  
But this is ME.

**Mary Krejzl**

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