

We Gathered Together by Ortrud Sonnenberg Hauwert

Like the once famous lady Babette,  
Who also to another country fled,  
I, too have dreamed of a perfect feast  
As a reminder of old times, where now at least  
My children could see their ancestors' way  
of having a party on a special holiday.

When the departing Boegers found that their Victorian angel  
Decorated a whole wall in my home to enable  
A Valentine gathering of the Friendly Eight,  
They mentioned that it would not be too late  
For a Valentine party of the Friends' older youth,  
And like a calling, suddenly this seemed to be for me the truth.

Swiftly, after a short notice of two weeks' time,  
I invited whosoever would come of the young ones in their prime.  
You couldn't imagine the provisions for enough space and everyone's seat.  
Many, of the latters lay hidden like Easter eggs real neat.  
Patiently until the last moment of the day,  
I awaited possible arrivals of the "Respondez s'il vous plait.  
Then, on an enjoyable shopping spree,

I purchased at Seeker's and the Three Brothers' the best I could see.  
"If plans go awry, it's not your fault,"  
Stated my February 11<sup>th</sup> horoscope.  
Having mentally designed an artistic display of the delicacies:  
International wines, finger food, tartar, and Pomeranian cottage cheese,  
My ideals, of a Babette-like success got stuck,  
As my only cutting knife had remained at the last Quakers' potluck.

However, after most guests did arrive,  
Eric came to my rescue with his Swiss army knife.  
In my mind I also did select  
Variations in music that would effect  
The mood of each participant  
Through its joyous, high spirits elevating blend.

Alas! All too soon the clock struck six,  
Not leaving any time for everything to fix.  
But, whenever things were "A.W.O.L."  
I looked at my Genie in his Boeger's "crystal bowl"  
and thought of Bottom in Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream  
That made me make up for missing matters with what's still best to deem.

Now the other part of my horoscope became true:  
" You've good friends in all the right places to help you."  
And so did the arriving guests. With their cheerful atmosphere,  
They made me forget who and what were not there.  
Many had not seen the others for twenty years to nearly one,  
Discovering their common grounds appeared to be fun,

As their conversations revealed more and more evidences  
of entangling webs' coincidences .  
Like Wilmer and Eric, of similar stature, bearings, and cheer,  
Were both born in exactly the very same year,  
Mark, Nico Mark & Eric, Geophysicist, Hydrologist, Geological Technician,  
Rendered an interesting discussion on environmental malnutrition.

The marvelous world of music once influenced David, Nico and Ann.  
When they met decades ago in school and now at the party again.  
Ivan, the connoisseur of music and art,  
Also shared as programmer on the computer with others as users his part.  
Malcolm had brought along an ample sample of good tasting French wine,  
Everyone savored its flavor and effects benign.

The special esprit of Cathy, Lisa and Ann  
Enlightened the whole party, and then,  
Not a single moment of boredom could be found,  
As spirits of thoughts sparkled everywhere around.  
Each new guest was welcomed with various ceremonies  
And parted not without many remaining memories  
And with a shared mutual desire to meet in the near future again  
At the Gulf in Galveston, the goal of a new plan.

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