
Can a leopard change its spots?

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Biographical notes: Barbara L'Huilier is an Accountant by 'trade' but is currently a PhD student studying at the University of Waikato, New Zealand. Theoretical direction for her poetry (and doctoral research) comes from critical theory and the use of power for transformational intent. She is particularly interested in notions of justice, equity, and 'good' governance.

*We're told they've changed their ways
These money men on Wall Street
No more three hour lunches
Drinking expensive wines and eating the finest fare.
No more unlimited expense accounts
Handmade suits and chauffeur driven cars,
"No! No!" they exhort "We've learnt our lesson
We've changed our ways" they exclaim!*

*We're told they've changed their ways
These money men on Wall Street
"We now dine like the peasants, oops sorry, clients
We are seen as one of them
A quick bite to eat at lunch, washed down with coffee
Then, straight back to work we go.
No more massive bonuses for us" they proudly cry
"No! No! We've shaved them to the bone"!*

B. L'Huillier

*We're told they've changed their ways
These money men on Wall Street
"We've slashed our pay rises to a paltry 25%
(Plus a few share options of course)
Actually, it's quite hard to make ends meet
What with private school fees, the holiday in Greece
The cabin in the mountains not to mention the yacht club fees
We've had to budget just to pay our bills"!*

*We're told they've changed their ways
These money men on Wall Street
"We've had to tighten our belts" they exclaim
"We know how the peasants, oops there I go again,
Clients feel when they complain of hardship
And want help to pay their mortgage, power and grocery bills
But we practice tough love and tell them to economize
After all, with obesity rife, who needs to eat every day"?*

*We're told they've changed their ways
These money men on Wall Street
But they belong to a special club
And they give each other jobs
The extra fees they earn help ease their financial pain;
This brings me to the title of this poem
'Can a leopard change its spots'?
Not in the Wall Street jungle it doesn't!*