

Oblivious

The man's kneecap
spoke brilliantly one day
delivering a solidly political speech
to the blazing sun:

*Sun, kneecap said,
since pants were invented
I've seen less and less of you—
Still, I enjoy catching a glimpse once in
awhile—on holidays at the beach
it makes me feel all warm inside
to know you're there
in case I'm ever exposed,
it's good for all things to have
their place, to know the universe is
orderly—A place for everything
and everything in its place, you know, but
tell me again...exactly what is it you do?*

Sun replied:
*I do my best, but as you point out
so vividly,
some innovations seem destined to
shut me out.
I'm beginning to feel a bit
unappreciated for all my work—
out of sight, out of mind, as they say.*

*Those jeans you're in are woven of
cotton I nourished to maturity for
months, the nutrients flowing
through your veins come from the plant
and animal life I've kept healthy for your use,*

*why, if I went away for even a fraction
of a second, you'd be stiff and brittle
as dry ice...by the way,
exactly what is it **you** do?*

But just then, man decided to pray.
He hadn't for quite some time,
but sure enough, today, he knelt
to the ground and began:
*Oh God above to whom I bend
bless my request
accept my thanks
for house and car and clothes and food
and music and love and wife and...for my dear*

*dog Douglass...
Thanks for the job I have
that keeps me and my family fed and warm
and saving up for college...
and please help the price of gasoline
to go down soon, way down
and thank-you for the discount stores
where we can buy our food and electronics
cheaply because of the power
of bulk buying
and help the US dollar to get back up there
where it ought to be
and help us to elect a good president to get rid of
terrorists and recessions
and to insure that we have great healthcare
good education and lower taxes...*

*Oh, and help those unfortunate people
who live far across the sea
in places where I've never been
but have seen on the evening news
for I'm certain that's exactly what you ever
endeavor to do.*

And God lifted up his mighty hand
and answered man
by removing his pants
so that suddenly kneecap was skin to soil
with dirt
and American man was naked
as the children he'd seen
on the evening news

and sun grew brilliant
burning them all evenly
until they all prayed only for water and a little
shade.