

**Virus Vigil**

**Poetry by Jim Blackburn  
Art by Isabelle Scurry Chapman**



## The Snake 2

The snake is an image that elicits fear,  
Our DNAs hardwired to put it in gear  
And boogie on out when the snake is around,  
A subject upon which I will further expound.

Now Isabelle's snake depicts a politician,  
A man epitomized by lies and ambition,  
A man lacking regard for truth and ethics,  
With hair and skin color that appear as synthetics.

But why does the snake get such a bad rap,  
To be in the same frame as that nasty chap,  
Indigo snakes chase down and eat rattlers,  
And most local snakes are just peaceful travelers.

But then there's the Bible and the loss of Eden,  
With the snake depicted as a diabolical demon,  
That tricked poor Eve into taking a bite,  
And banishing humans to a life of flight.

And then there's the sexual side of the snake,  
Tempting the naïve into making a mistake,  
And then there is speaking with a forked tongue,  
Which all snakes have – that deal is done.

Now in India their snake love goes to extreme,  
I don't want a cobra sharing my moonbeam,  
But they do worship nature and all its species,  
It fits the philosophy I'm assembling in pieces.

There's a pull and a push that we all must admit,

Love 'em or hate 'em - but I must commit,  
Earth Church makes room for slip-slidin' creatures,  
It's one of the chapel's more intriguing features.

So when you are out and enjoying the temple,  
Please don't freak out and go all mental,  
When a snake appears in your field of vision,  
Just give it some space and treat it with wisdom.

So welcome to Earth Church  
Pull yourself up a pew  
Where snakes find redemption  
And so can you.