Lesser Goldfinch 2

It’s hot today in the Texas Hill Country,
The sun has come to stay it seems,
The rains were here and now are gone,
Today we’re living at the extremes.

Our Covid numbers are getting worse,
So much for declaring victory,
We seem to gain and then we lose
And the messages are contradictory.

And as I walk down the asphalt road
And look for signs amidst the oaks
I see a gorgeous yellow and black
Ahead on the fence, and it’s not a hoax.

The goldfinch asks me to stop for a chat,
He’s glad to see I am back again,
He’s feeling good for there’s ample food,
He’s living life in a state of zen.

I ask how he can feel so calm
When there is so much to fret about?
And he meets my eye and says to me,
“It’s about living life without a doubt.”

“One does what they can with given gifts,
And you have to give it all that you’ve got,
But if you fail to meet daily needs,
Your body and mind will simply rot.

“Living life well is the best we can do
And that is simple but also profound
Now excuse me please for I must be off
I need to flash some color around.”

So the yellow and black went flying away
And left me with a great afterglow
That always comes when I let nature in
To help my brain go from fast to slow.

So welcome to Earth Church
Pull yourself up a pew
Let the goldfinch guru
Point the way for you.
Lesser Goldfinch

In the Hill Country
Looking out the window
In early summer.

“Come look” says Sue
From the window’s edge.
The yellow and black bird
Hangs upside down
On a purple thistle bloom,
Taking its daily meal provided by nature.

The contrast with modern humans is stark.
The forager in nature has access
Denied to many humans,
Access to food, water and shelter,
Access to meet basic needs,
Yet the forager faces drought and predation,
A harshness of reality
Coming with the certainty of death
For those unable to search and find
Or evade and escape.

Watching nature is to see
Where we humans once were
Yet think we are no more,
At once within and without
The natural order on the planet Earth
In this galaxy called the milky way
Which is only a fraction of the universe.

Coming back to the moment,
I smile with enchantment.
I’ve gone all the way from the Milky Way
To a purple flower in a single thought sequence.
I spanned space and time within myself,
Within my piece of the Universe,
Within my reality, Within me.