



Disability Conundrums

By: Gitty Zee

As I sit and write this poem,
I contemplate
All the names that people use for us
The names we despise and hate.

They make us wonder who we are;
They totally confuse me.
Are we blind and physically impaired?
Or do we have new, daily disabilities?

We are blind,
And that's okay.
Visually impaired we are not!
We have no useful vision to display.

'Retarded,' 'imbecile' and 'cripple'
Became illegal just a few years back
A result of Rosa's Law
When her family gave the government
flack.

'Case,' 'consumer,' 'individual'
These new words should also be
removed!
A world filled with just 'people'
Will be very much improved .

Don't refer to us as 'the blind'
We are people who happen to not see.
Focus on who we really are;
Put people before their disability.

Why are we called 'consumers?'
Or the 'person you support'?
Will you also call us height-impaired
If we happen to be short?

What's wrong with the more respectable,
client
Why can't that word just be said?
Better yet, just call us people
Or human beings, instead.

Do the people you support
Have to be your 'case?'
Does all of this pc language
Have to constantly be thrown in our face?

Stop trying so hard
To be politically correct.
Because all of your efforts
Have a different effect.

You try not to offend,
But you make us feel worse
As if our being disabled
Is a terrible curse.

All of this new-age blabber
About neuro-typical and diverse,
Don't you have anything better to do
Than sit and converse...?

About all of this new lingo
And normal words we may not say,
Removed from our vocabulary
The list grows every day

You seem to have lots of time
To congregate and plot,
New terms and titles for people like us
We say, 'No thanks, a lot!'

We took a big step forward
With the old hurtful words we no longer
say.
But replacing them with all of this new
lingo
Is doing the same thing, a different way.

Please do us a favor
Use your time and money better
Instead of calling us names,
Please discuss the weather!

Because after all, people
Should not be spoken about this way
Every time I hear a new term,
I groan and think...oy vey!