Vote Is a Four-Letter Word

I will do it November Six  
Tattoo Judas Iscariot on my left hand  
Go to confession  
Bless me Father for I have sinned  
It has been four years since my last election  
Ask forgiveness  
Say two thousand and twelve Our Fathers

I live in the State of Denial for not trumping my Master Card  
It's August and I have not bought my Halloween costume  
It's September and my Christmas shopping is not done  
It's October and the debates, and the candidates are speaking in tongues

Holy Moloch Holy Moloch I can’t make up my mind  
Please help me Allen Ginsberg  
I’ve lost my way in the amusement park  
The barkers have pick pocketed my conscience  
Put your queer shoulder to the carnival wheel and spin me a president

I will vote for Romney he is a good man  
He has promised me a gold plate to eat my rice and beans  
Soaked in the blood of Bain Capital  
I will vote for Obama he is a good man  
He received the Nobel Peace Prize for bombing Africa  
(Henry Kissinger gave him permission)  
Two wings one eagle  
OBAMAROMNEY preying everywhere

I am shocked I am in awe of my country  
I am learning how to love the drone  
I want to ride one like Slim Pickens in Dr. Strangelove  
Howl You’ll never see me coming all the way down  
I don’t care if I miss my target  
A wedding party in Kabul  
A marketplace in Bagdad  
I am the Exceptional American immune from planetary prosecution

We need a moratorium from this four-year charade  
Macabre masquerade  
Billionaire’s parade  
Chain congressmen and senators to cherry trees  
Until they confess I cannot tell a lie  
I have sold my soul to Monsanto  
I cannot tell a lie  
I am owned by Goldman Sachs  
I am a pathological liar  
That is why I am a politician

Tattoo teardrops on the faces of presidents  
For all they murdered from collateral damage  
(Let’s make it patriotic)  
Blue for men  
Red for women  
White for children  
What terrible beauty Commanders in Chief
Evict the squanderers of the People’s savings
Turn their offices into classrooms and pay teachers their salaries
Remove the Bierstadt’s  the Eastman’s  and the Remington’s
Use the walls as canvasses for children to finger-paint a future
Where war is studied no more.

— Richard Cambridge

Richard Cambridge is a Fellow of the Black Earth Institute. He is
currently working on a novel titled 1970, an alternate history centered on
that year featuring a cast of activists who successfully bring revolution to
America.