

“Hop on Pop or Nop”

A Reflection by Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull
Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden
Meriden, CT
New Member Sunday/Father’s Day
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We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us—our church mothers and fathers, our family mothers and fathers. Sometimes we hop on them—well, not quite their shoulders, take Dads, for example:

You who are kids of all ages
Heed a story told by one of our sages.
‘tis a tale of hopping on Pop,
Why not Step-Pop and Pop-Pop?
Why not without stop?
I’ll tell you why on this day for Dad
On this day for Dad, when many are glad
To be hop-hopped by you;
But it’s also true on this day for Dad
That too many are sad
From missing you.

We are family, yes
So we don’t have to guess
That too many today, Dads that is,
Are missing their kids—
Not just because they didn’t call.
But because they’re not present at all.
They may be alive, but who knows where they are?
How can they thrive, when they’re so far
Away that play is out of the question.
Consider what’s more than suggestion:

Let us pray, let us write,
Let us call, let us fight;
Let’s persist
In resisting
The powers that are,
Who have gone so far
In denying what’s right.
Who have taken from sight
In their misuse of might.
Tots and teens and tiny ones clinging
Can anyone still be singing
On this day for Dads
When so many are sad?

While those of us here
Might not live in the fear
That we too might be missed
By the children we've kissed
And cherish so dearly,
It's well beyond dreary

To know that we don't know when or how
For sure not right now
Families torn apart
How not to lose heart?

On this day for Dad,
Can we move beyond sad?
In love beyond belief,
We'll find paths for relief.
With persistence
Insistence,
Let us pray, let us act
Let us rise and fight back

It is every Dad's right
To have within sight
Mischievous and twinkles from those little eyes.
Watch them run, all in fun, saying "Surprise! Surprise!"
"Like it or nop,
Today is our day, everyone's day,
For the right, the delight of hopping on pop!"

Source:

Dr. Seuss, *Hop on Pop*, Random House Children's Books, first published 1963.