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My Lament and *That Other Voice*

Frank Zahn

That other voice within me
will not be denied
as I lament the passing
of the nineteen-sixties
and the life I left behind.

What happened to the world
of "heightened awareness"
that I found at Woodstock
and in the anger of Mick Jagger
and the Rolling Stones,
*a world in which income
from that Asian War
enabled me to drop out
and indulge myself in drugs
and booze and protest
and sex with one and all?*
What happened to freedom
*from responsibility
and loyalty and cleanliness
and respect for others?*
What happened to the love flowers
and communion with nature and
my caring-sharing-feeling life,
*a life devoid of faith
and discipline and reason?*

I wish I could return
to those wondrous years
and the life I left behind,
but *that other voice* within me
will not be denied.