

## Modern Rage

By Rob McKinnon



### I—The Shock Jock

**W**ith one last mention of his major sponsor  
he signed off for the week.  
He was forced to apologise

and he hated doing that.

He had oafishly jibed about the New Zealand Prime Minister  
which was relayed through international media.

Station management thought it best that he say sorry,  
not because they thought he had said something wrong  
but to ease the possibility of sponsors leaving the show for a long time.

They had always come back after the heat dissipated  
because he had topped the ratings for many years.

He didn't really believe the comment,  
it was just part of the planning for the show  
conceived by his producers to deliberately stir complaint.

He hadn't really believed in anything for a long time.

Long ago he abandoned any personal ideals,  
when he was younger he pursued his principles  
but that was when his ratings were struggling.

Since he had just listened to his producers  
and delivered the endless banter they encouraged  
his show had gained much more attention  
which generated skyrocketing ratings.

The loss of his principles had been very well compensated for,  
his huge salary bought him many things to ease his conscience.  
As his cult status grew the loss of personal integrity seemed like an easy trade.  
As the years moved on the constant clashes dulled his sensibilities  
to a point where they were almost numb.

His listeners had been stirred to perform some loathsome expressions  
of their devotion for him to ethnic groups and welfare recipients  
among other selected groups and individuals.

Occasionally the willingness of his audience to follow his every word worried him  
but not to a point where he sought to change the situation,  
any short-lived bouts of morality were quickly annulled by his ego.

## **II—The Keyboard Crusader**

Every day she would trawl social media as much as she could.  
There were groups that had similar beliefs to her  
but she especially loved the general ones or the jokes groups,  
that was where the snowflakes were that she could intimidate  
with her hatred for ethnic groups, refugees and others.

Her postings were sometimes so extreme that administrators would ban her from the group,  
had also been excluded from various platforms for weeks at a time.  
That didn't bother her as she had many handles to use,  
she was amazed how people were so easily offended.  
Each time she was banned thrilled her and encouraged her to continue.

### III—The Mass Murderer

As he entered the Al Noor Mosque  
armed with guns  
labelled in white  
with battles between Christians and Muslims,  
victims of Islamic attacks  
and far-right extremists,  
just before he murdered fifty-one people  
injuring forty-nine others,  
the last words he heard  
before he pulled the trigger  
were “Hello, Brother.”

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